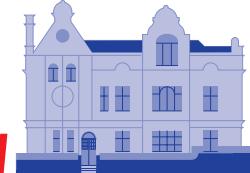


# OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018

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TOP WHERE SOLD

# CRUNCH TIME FOR BUSINESS PLAN

Report by Jonny Drury

ONE final push is being made for firms to support a proposal to transform Oswestry into a Business Improvement District as the process reaches its crunch stage.

A postal referendum on the proposal closes on Thursday next week with the result due to be announced the following day.

The BID move has the potential to lever in £1.5 million of funding to improve the town but will only be given the go-ahead if the majority of firms eligible to vote in the referendum back the proposal. BID chairman Ian Follington this week urged all eligible businesses to ensure they have their say on the proposal – and said he hoped businesses would vote yes.

If they vote yes, it would mean each business with a rateable value of over £12,000 would pay 1.74 per cent extra on their rates, bringing in £1.5 million over five years for improvement projects.

Empty buildings, vacant sites and better traffic flow and parking are just some of the priorities being held up as issues which BID could help tackle to ensure Oswestry prospers in the future.

Mr Follington said a successful BID project would positively impact on all businesses, especially as plans for an Innovation Park on the edge of the town move forward.

He said: "We are having one final push. The message is for businesses, big and small, to get involved."

"With the investment coming with the Innovation Park and other projects, this is something that will have an impact on all businesses."

"People have been saying that it won't affect them so they won't get involved. But that is where they are wrong, if they are a business in Oswestry, it will have an impact on them."

Votes must be received by 5pm on Thursday next week to be counted.

Properties with a rateable value of less than £12,000 have not been given vote and will not be subject to the BID levy.

The BID move comes as business bosses were told last week, Oswestry was in line for "phenomenal" levels of growth in housing and employment in the next few years.

A meeting of the town's chamber of commerce heard the huge economic growth signalled a "new chapter" for the town.

• Growth – See Page 5



Ian Follington

## School's tree ceremony commemorates Holocaust



Taking care of the cherry tree are, from left, Rosie Hitchins, Harvey Renshaw, Elsa Van Der Horst and Lennon Peaks. Photo: Jamie Ricketts.

CHILDREN from an Oswestry primary school have been commemorating the Holocaust with a ceremony around a cherry tree.

The tree was planted at Woodside Academy a few years ago as part of a move to create a countywide orchard of trees at schools and other public places. This year to mark Holocaust Memorial Day a special ceremony was held at the school along with three others in Shropshire.

During a week of events children learned about the Holocaust. Work within the schools focused on this year's theme of "The Power of Words", with pupils sharing special letters and postcards that they had written to a Holocaust survivor.

Joyce Barrow, Shropshire Council's cabinet member for communities, took the lead in the ceremony at Woodside Academy.

Councillor Barrow said: "It has been lovely

to spend time with the children at Woodside and to see their tree growing so well. I hope that all the children involved at the schools will look out for their trees and really think about the positive ways in which they can show care for each other and for the environment in everything that they do."

Mark Michaels from Shropshire's Jewish community and the Reverend John Cheshire also took part in the event.

## HEALTH

### Concerns are voiced over suspension of unit's birth service

HEALTH campaigners have spoken of their concern after birthing services at Oswestry's maternity unit were suspended for two weeks.

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust announced on Friday last week that the service would be closed until February 25 after saying expectant mothers were not choosing to use the facility.

The trust has stressed that antenatal and postnatal services are still available at the unit despite it being temporarily closed to births.

Bosses say the measure has been taken to ensure women's safety.

But Liz Grayston, one of those leading a campaign to keep all services available at the unit, said she knew several mothers who are now feeling let down.

She said: "The biggest concern I have is that the trust is using anxiety over uncertainty as their main reason for closure.

"What it is actually doing is quashing choice.

"Women aren't choosing consultant care, they're being advised to have it, and who goes against medical advice?"

"Most women are disappointed not to be able to use the more relaxed environment at the unit."

• Closure – See Page 3

## RETAIL

### Opinions sought on bid to move market

WELSHPOOL Town Council is asking for views on a plan to move its indoor market.

It is looking to move the market from the town hall to units on Church Street between the Montgomery Canal and the Tourist Information Centre.

The survey can be completed online by visiting [www.welshpooltowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.welshpooltowncouncil.gov.uk).

Paper copies are available from the Tourist Information Centre, town council offices and the market cafe.

Consultation ends on February 28.

## INSIDE

### Memories of the Busby Babes



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# Desperate man targeted his local convenience store

Report by Andrew Morris

A MAN was so desperate for cash to pay his rent that he robbed his local convenience store – where he was known as a customer and had previously applied for a job.

When his victim bravely refused to hand over money, Simon Paul Jones, who has been jailed for more than four years, ran out empty handed, but not before producing a knife to threaten his victim and punch him to the head a number of times.

Police were soon able to arrest Jones because he was so well known in his home town of Montgomery near Welshpool.

At Mold Crown Court, Jones, 25, of Old Gaol Road in Montgomery, was jailed for four and a half years after he admitted attempted robbery of staff member Luke Ridgeway at The Spar in the town on January 2 this year.

He also pleaded guilty to assault causing actual bodily harm to PC Andrew Taylor, damaging the £150 wristwatch of Police Community Support Officer Philip Edwards and common assault against the same officer.

Jones's licence period was extended by two years and he was told he would not be released until he had served two thirds of his sentence.

It turned out that he had two previous robbery convictions going back to 2009 when he was a youth.

"This is not the sort of place where people are used to this sort of thing happening. Montgomery is a pretty, peaceful little town," the Judge David Hale told him.

Police found that the defendant had been to the homes of two people and admitted what he had done – and then got a taxi to Welshpool and had gone to a local pub where he was arrested.

In the police station the defendant turned violent and struggled with two officers – and bit one of them.

Defending barrister Jonathan Austin said that the defendant was desperate for money at the time. He had got behind with his rent and was threatened with eviction.

## Bloom members on road to national success



Betty Gull, front, meets representatives from Highways England, Shropshire Council and Oswestry Town Council to discuss the plans

GARDENING enthusiasts hoping Oswestry wins Britain in Bloom have brought in Highways England to help their cause.

The Oswestry In Bloom committee has held talks with the government body to press for a scheme to improve one of the gateways to the town.

Mile End Roundabout has been criticised in past years for being an eyesore for judges arriving in Oswestry for the Heart of England in Bloom competition.

Now that the town has won through to

the national Britain in Bloom finals, it is hoped that the traffic island can be planted up for the visit in the summer.

After 13 years of winning gold, Oswestry was hailed best large town in the region in 2017 – going through to this year's national competition.

In Bloom chairman Betty Gull last week met Shropshire and town councillors and representatives from Highways England to discuss how the roundabout could give a welcome to the judges.

Miss Gull said the town's bid for national success also needed help from the local community and businesses.

"The bar is now being raised quite dramatically," she said.

"It is clear that the emphasis is not so much on community initiatives as it is in the Heart of England competition but much more horticultural," she said.

"This will be a great adventure for Oswestry. We need community groups to look after their green spaces."

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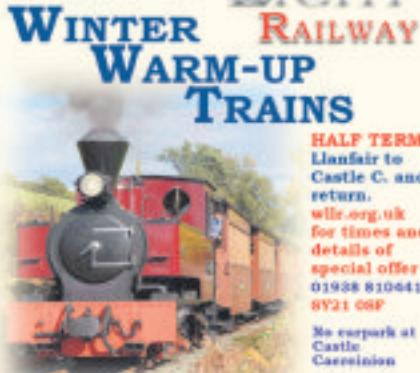
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# Station's location is agreed by councillors

A SITE for a new bus station in Welshpool has been agreed by councillors.

Welshpool Town Council's planning and development committee had previously discussed matters surrounding where a new bus station in the town should be located.

A paper that went before the town council last week put three options on the table.

One was to have the station in Berriew Street car park, and two proposals went forward for Church Street car park.

A recommendation that went before the council said Berriew Street was the preferred option and that choice was ratified by councillors at the latest meeting.

Some councillors expressed their concerns about having the station in Berriew Street due to traffic problems. Councillor Heather Sherlock said it is not a free flowing road and sometimes causes major tailbacks which could cause problems for the buses. Town Clerk Robert Robinson said there has been much discussion in Powys County Hall and that he believes that buses coming out of Berriew Street car park should be given a priority lane.

The majority of councillors expressed their backing in the meeting for the bus station, and it was passed by 10 votes to two.

## Caravan blaze damages pylon

AN electricity pylon was damaged when a caravan caught fire near Oswestry.

The static was fully ablaze in Wigmarsh, West Felton, at about 7.30pm on Tuesday last week. The situation was under control by about 8.20pm.

Electricity company workers attended with firefighters to check the pylon.

**Report by Lisa O'Brien**

**HEALTH** campaigners have expressed their dismay at the repeated temporary closures of birthing services at Shropshire's rural maternity units.

The three rural midwife-led units (MLUs) in Bridgnorth, Oswestry and Ludlow reopened to births on New Year's Day after a suspension due to staffing issues.

But there have been a series of temporary overnight closures since then that Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust – which runs the MLUs – has blamed on staff sickness.

And on Friday last week the trust announced birthing services at the unit in Oswestry would be closed until February 25 after saying expectant mothers were not choosing to use the facility. Antenatal and postnatal services remain available at the unit.

The trust said: "Our mums are choosing to have their babies in our consultant-led unit over our rural MLUs, such as Oswestry."

"To protect their safety during the birth, we are having to look to temporary closures to allow staff to follow our mums' decisions."

It has since been announced that a review into maternity services has been delayed with health bosses saying it is likely to be a number of months before the public can have their say.

Liz Grayston, one of those leading the campaign to keep the Oswestry unit open, said the latest closure of birthing services "quashed choice" for women.

Fellow health campaigner, Bridgnorth Town Councillor Dr Julia Buckley, claimed women were being put in a "dangerous" situation.

Hospital bosses say there are still only a small number of mothers opting to give birth at the rural MLUs, but Dr Buckley said it was not seen as an appealing option to many women because of the unexpected and repeated overnight closures. She said: "It's extremely dangerous for a woman not to know where she can give birth."

## Mayor is back at school for charity



Oswestry Mayor Vince Hunt, at Whittington School with some of the pupils

OSWESTRY'S mayor returned to his childhood when he joined pupils in the playground.

Councillor Vince Hunt enlisted the help of eight schools in Oswestry and surrounding villages to help boost his fundraising appeal during his mayoral year.

During the day he managed to visit each of them to thank the children.

The schools, including The Marches School, held a non-uniform day with each child donating to one of his chosen charities – u&i counselling.

could have troublesome feelings and thoughts that could be overwhelming. "These can range from anxious thoughts or anger problems to grief and loss, exam stress, friendship or family problems or bullying," he said.

Based in Oswestry, the charity provides counselling for children and adults with professional counsellors providing their time unpaid. However funds are needed for costs including room rental insurance and telephones.

Councillor Hunt said it was good to talk about mental health and said children and young people

could have troublesome feelings and thoughts that could be overwhelming. "These can range from anxious thoughts or anger problems to grief and loss, exam stress, friendship or family problems or bullying," he said.

Last year the charity helped support 291 people, 90 of which were aged between six and 18.

He said: "It is an excellent charity that helps children with mental health problems."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Distraction theft at cash point

A THIEF stole money while it was being taken out of a cash point by his victim.

The offender distracted the person who was withdrawing cash from outside a bank at The Cross in Oswestry at lunchtime on February 2.

Police say the thief was white, stocky, in his 50s and was wearing a black hat and blue jeans. "The customer recovered his cash card but the offender was seen taking the cash," a police spokesman said. Officers are warning people to be vigilant when at cash point machines. Anyone who saw the theft or may have information should contact police on 101.

### Ramblers are out and about again

THE Welshpool Ramblers walk on Sunday will be from Berriew.

The route of about 8.5 miles will meander towards Felindre, then head up through Bank Wood towards Bank Farm, before winding back towards the starting point. Meet at 9.30am in the car park beside the Welshpool Tourist Information Centre or at the start of the walk at Berriew Community Centre (OS grid ref. SJ 185 010) ready for an 9.45am start.

### Man arrested over alleged grooming

A TEENAGER has been arrested on suspicion of sexual grooming.

West Mercia Police arrested an 18-year-old man in Oswestry on Thursday evening last week after receiving a call from the group Keeping Kids Safe.

The arrest was made at a property at 9.15pm.

The man has now been released under police investigation.

West Mercia Police spokeswoman, Laura Maltby, confirmed the arrest was made after someone contacted the police.

She said: "An 18-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of sexual grooming.

"The arrest was made after a member of the public contacted police."



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The vehicle in the ditch

A DRIVER escaped serious injury when his car ended up in a ditch.

Police praised other drivers who stopped to help the man before emergency services arrived.

The accident happened at 2.30pm on Wednesday last week on Whittington Road just outside Gobowen,

near Oswestry. A security firm vehicle left the road and came to a stop down a ditch and in a hedge.

Murray McGregor, from West Midlands Ambulance Service, said the driver of the car, a 32-year-old man was very shaken by the accident.

"He had a sore head but did not want to go to hospital," he said.

A security dog in the rear of the vehicle was also believed to have suffered no serious injuries.

Meanwhile, emergency services were called to a house fire in Oswestry on Sunday.

Firefighters had to enter a house through a back window to extinguish the blaze. Three fire engines were sent to the scene in Maple Avenue at about 1.20pm after textiles on a hob caught fire. The crews used breathing apparatus and thermal imaging camera to tackle the fire.

# Car ends up in ditch after leaving road

# Historic moment as MPs speak Welsh in Westminster

Report by Jonny Drury

MONTGOMERYSHIRE MP Glyn Davies has described the speaking of Welsh for the first time in a debate in Westminster as a "historic day".

A Welsh Grand Committee meeting on Wednesday last week to discuss last November's budget was the first to use translation facilities, after the rules had been relaxed.

It was the first time the Welsh Grand, which consists of 40 Welsh MPs, and several other MPs, has met for two years. They discussed measures that had been announced by the Chancellor Philip Hammond in the latest budget.

Mr Davies said on social media: "Historic day in Westminster."

"First time ever that MPs have been allowed to speak in the Welsh language. Some of us took advantage. I did."

"It was a bit of a challenge. Wrote myself some notes – but in English so I wasn't drawn into reading. Great to have Kevin Brennan and David TC Davies doing the same. Yr iaith Cymraeg has finally arrived in Westminster."

The move on using different languages follows a UK Government decision last year to support the use of Welsh in parliamentary debates.

Welsh Secretary of State Alun Cairns added: "I am proud to be using the language I grew up speaking, which is not only important to me, my family and the communities Welsh MPs represent, but is also an integral part of Welsh history and culture."

"This is an historic day for Parliament and for Wales, and I pay tribute to those in the committee who have campaigned for this change over many years."

### Councillor to sit on hillfort group

A TOWN councillor has been appointed to sit on a group fighting for the future of Oswestry's ancient hillfort, despite fears from some members that it was setting a precedent.

Councillor Barry Edwards was voted onto HOOOH, Hands off Old Oswestry Hillfort, after an invite from the group.

He will liaise between the town council and the group.

The proposal was opposed by Councillor Chris Schofield who called the organisation a protest group.

He said: "The hillfort is not in Oswestry, it's in Gobowen and Selattyn parish and I would vote against it. This council should be neutral. It sets a precedent and it loses its impartiality."

Councillors voted 7-6 in favour of the appointment.

### Attraction wins top award



Education officer Rachel Mottram and animal care supervisor Lucy Jones celebrate the award A VISITOR attraction near Oswestry has picked up a prestigious award.

Park Hall Countryside Experience was announced as the winner of the best in education award at the National Farm Attractions Network (NFAN) awards dinner.

A host of delegates travelled to Telford for the ceremony.

It is the second time in three years that the farm has won the prestigious national award.

It came after a NFAN open day was held at the farm on January 31, with over 180

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# Chamber told town in line for 'phenomenal growth'

Report by Jonny Drury

**OSWESTRY** is in line for "phenomenal" levels of growth in housing and employment in the next few years, a meeting of business bosses has heard.

The meeting of the town's chamber of commerce heard the huge economic growth signalled a "new chapter" for the town.

The chamber meeting was told it was important existing businesses were kept up to date with the new developments so they could capitalise on opportunities and a call was made at the meeting for local builders and suppliers to be used in the massive building projects.

The meeting, held at the Wynnstay Hotel on Wednesday night last week, discussed how the chamber could play a role in driving forward growth and helping businesses in the town. Chamber chairman Mark Derham said the group had about 40 members but only some played an active part in the group.

The meeting was told there is about 750 businesses in the town and more had to be done to encourage all firms, especially the larger employers, to get involved in the chamber meetings.

Chamber member John Waine said it was important the organisation had a purpose.

He said plans for an Innovation Park on the edge of the town to create hundreds of jobs and proposals for the building of hundreds of new homes created a new "narrative" for Oswestry.

He said: "There's a new chapter happening for Oswestry. Oswestry is going to grow phenomenally."

Chamber member Ian Follington said the chamber could act as an "honest broker" of information about the new developments.

He suggested the chamber could make a call for local firms to be used in the building projects. The meeting also discussed the future role of the chamber itself.

Members heard while some of the monthly meetings proved popular, others were poorly attended.

Chamber member Heather Noble said:

"It is sometimes like flogging a dead horse. You have to create a party that people want to come to."

The chamber meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 6pm at the Wynnstay Hotel in Oswestry.

Marches Local Enterprise Partnership is part of the Midlands UK delegation at the four-day MIPIM, which will attract 24,000 people from more than 100 countries.

LEP chairman Graham Wynn OBE said: "The Marches is one of the best places in the UK to invest, live, work and play."

"MIPIM gives us the chance to showcase what Shropshire, Telford and Herefordshire has to offer investors."

## Special diamond to be unveiled



Mark Hignett with some of the letters sent between the two soldiers during the war

A DIAMOND made from the ashes of love letters written to remember a poignant relationship between two soldiers in the Second World War is to be unveiled.

The story of Oswestry-based artilleryman Gilbert Bradley and infantryman Gordon Bowsher, who defied the law to write more than 600 letters to each other, captured the hearts of people in Shropshire and beyond.

Interest in the forbidden love story led to an Arts Council grant for a special project in Oswestry last September which saw hundreds of love letters written by people young and old, burnt in a special post box and sent to the Heart in Diamond company which turns ash into a diamond.

Mark Hignett, the curator of Oswestry Museum, who bought the letters on ebay, said the diamond would be unveiled at a tea dance in the town on February 24.

It will form the centrepiece of the museum's exhibition of the letters for all the world to see.

Mr Hignett said the art project to create the diamond, commissioned by the Heritage Open Days, had been led by artist Olivia Winteringham in collaboration with Oswestry Town Museum and supported by Shrewsbury LGBT History Festival. The diamond will be unveiled at the Memorial Hall in Oswestry at the tea dance which runs from 2pm to 6pm. Entry costs £3.



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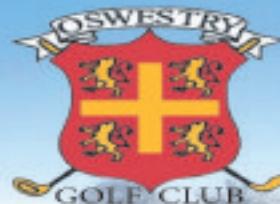
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## BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

I was shocked this week to read the news that Oswestry Town Council was stalling on plans to put electric charging points in their main car park in the centre of the town – demanding more details about the scheme put forward by former Mayor and current County Councillor Paul Milner.

You would have to ask just how much information these councillors need? Have they not been listening to the news or reading the papers? This is a real opportunity for Oswestry to be at the forefront of the trend to electrify motoring and signal the end of the internal combustion engine. If they need more facts they should read up on the news that the world's major car manufacturers are totally committed to electrification. Volvo will electrify its entire vehicle line by 2019 with five-all-electric models set to roll-out from 2019 to 2021 with a target of a million sales by 2025. General Motors, Ford, Toyota, Mazda, Daimler, Mercedes-Benz, Renault, Nissan, Mitsubishi, Jaguar/Land Rover, Volkswagen, Audi, Seat and Skoda have all announced plans to phase out petrol and diesel power. And don't be fooled that these manufacturers are working on electrification just for the sake of it. The move is Government-led and part of a growing movement to end the use of traditional combustion engines to cut down on vehicle emissions and protect our planet.

Make no mistake, electric cars are coming to a road near you in the immediate future and if councils want to continue attracting visitors to their towns they must be ready. The entire country needs an infrastructure of charging points and that's an opportunity to make money. And if that's not enough evidence then there's the news that BP will add rapid charging points at all its UK petrol stations within the next two months – the latest sign of an oil giant adapting to the dramatic growth of battery power.

Councillors should be seeing this as a great opportunity for Oswestry.

There is evidence that an installation at Church Stretton car park is a big success with the 1,000th customer recently recorded.

The chance to introduce another incentive for visitors to the town should be grasped with both hands. Some pro-active councils offer free parking to owners of electric vehicles while they are at the charging points – another consideration for our town councillors to chew over.



Derek Thorpe played against two of the Busby Babes



Duncan Edwards's life was cut short at Munich



Many of Manchester United's young stars died at Munich

## PETER RHODES

PRESENTED with 'Tesco' my new spell check suggests 'Tosca'. Nothing to make a song and dance about.

A WEATHER forecaster at the weekend said it would be chilly for those 'out and about'. The more you repeat this much-used phrase, the odder it seems. 'Out' is plain enough but what does 'about' mean? Time for change. Let us replace 'out and about' with the more lyrical term as used by Bertie Wooster in the P G Wodehouse Jeeves books: 'Hither, thither and yon.'

THE great writer G K Chesterton declared: "Journalism largely consists of saying 'Lord Jones is Dead' to people who never knew that Lord Jones was alive." I was reminded of that recently when the Guardian ran an obituary on "Ambalavane Sivanandan: Director of the Institute of Race Relations who helped change the way Britain thought about race." He was apparently a fine chap. But to be honest I'm not sure he changed the way I think about race. It's not only that I'd never heard of him during his lifetime but that, according to the obituary, he died on January 3 and I don't even recall it being reported back then. One brave Guardian reader confesses: "Great headline – pity I've never heard about him."

But then, in a world increasingly stuffed with celebrities, how do we keep up? How many times have you woken to the morning news that some allegedly famous person has passed away (Scandinavian poet, 70s rock singer, etc), and you've never heard of them? They are the uncelebrated celebrities.

I COMFORT myself with the suspicion that when obituary writers are asked to produce 1,000 glowing words on the latest uncelebrated celebrity, their initial response is: "Who?"

THE general coarseness of political debate is depressing. Some folk think that if you disagree with somebody's politics, you are entitled to hurl the vilest insults at them. Take the incident in Bexley, south London, a few days ago when a middle-aged man appeared to help a 97-year-old lady up the doorstep and into a club. In fact, as the CCTV showed, he was slyly stealing her purse and a 'substantial amount' of cash. Whatever our political views, we can all agree that robbing a defenceless old lady is disgraceful? Apparently not. The club in question was a Conservative Club which prompted this from a reader of the Daily Mail website: "I felt sorry for her, then realised she is a Tory. Oh well, never mind!" Disgusting barely covers it.

# Busby Babes stars were 'such great young lads'

### A Shropshire man recalls his days with two footballing greats at an army camp near Oswestry

IT was a tackle he wasn't going to forget in a hurry. When Derek Thorpe's army football team took on their neighbouring regiment, his sergeant-major warned their opponents had one or two tasty players in their side.

Early in the game, the nippy young winger found himself dispossessed by a strapping defender playing for the other side, and decided to pay him back.

"He tackled me early on, and I thought 'I'll have you next time,'" recalls Derek, now 81. "I landed about two yards further up the pitch than I did the first time."

That player was Duncan Edwards. By the time he turned out for the Royal Army Ordnance Corps team, based in Nesscliffe, near Oswestry, he already had three England caps under his belt, and Derek remembers being in awe of the power, skill and speed of the great man. "Him and Bobby Charlton were both in the same team, and they really stood out," he said. "I thought Duncan Edwards was better than Bobby Charlton, and I later read that Bobby also thought he was."

While Charlton would go on to taste World Cup success and enjoy a long, glittering career, Edwards's life would tragically be cut short as a result of the Munich air crash.



Duncan Edwards, top right, and Bobby Charlton, top, third from right, were based at Nesscliffe near Oswestry during their National Service days

It is 60 years this month since the disaster tore apart Matt Busby's legendary "Busby Babes" Manchester United team which had blazed a trail for English football in the newly formed UEFA Cup. On February 6 1958, the chartered British European Airways plane had stopped in Germany to refuel, and crashed as it attempted to take off for its final leg of the journey.

Of the 44 people on board, 23 were killed. Charlton was one of the survivors. Edwards was one of eight United team members who died from injuries sustained during the crash.

"It knocked me about a bit when I heard about that," says Derek, who lives in Shrewsbury. "They were such great lads," added Derek. "Duncan was from Dudley, and I was from Dawley,

so the lingo was pretty similar. After he had knocked me flying with his tackle, he came over to me, and said 'you all right, kid?'"

Derek, who was a regular with the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) at Copthorne Barracks, says he would regularly play against the Manchester United stars during their National Service in the mid-1950s.

"Because they were just up the road, we would play each other a lot," he said. But Derek recalls the games were often one-sided affairs, with the KSLI lads beating the Nesscliffe team on just one occasion, adding: "They were a cut above the rest," he added.

Also in that team was Brian Griffiths, a full back for Shrewsbury Town. Like many professional footballers from the

Midlands, he was posted to Nesscliffe for his National Service so he could continue to keep playing for his club.

Soon after Brian started at Nesscliffe, a teenage Charlton arrived at the depot too, and he and Brian were both in the same platoon – 3 Platoon – and shared the same platoon billet. A picture on Brian's wall shows him training with the Manchester United players on the racecourse at Monkmoor.

"We would do the normal training the soldiers did – marching, ammunition, etc and so on – and then after that the footballers would do the football training. We were all mates and it was a good atmosphere," says Brian.

He saw first hand how Edwards, who played wing half, brought out the best in the young Bobby Charlton, who played at inside forward or centre forward.

"Bobby does owe Dunc quite a lot. Over the time I knew him he improved to A1."

"They were great lads, they really were," says Derek. "You could talk to them easily, it was just normal army chat."

"At one point I was injured, and I finished up in the medical centre at Nesscliffe, and I remember Duncan and Bobby Charlton coming to visit me."

Brian says Charlton and Edwards seemed to enjoy their Shropshire army days: "They mucked in with everything and they never thought they were any higher than anybody else."

Edwards finished his National Service in 1957, but Charlton returned to Nesscliffe for another year. Brian says his wife Iris stayed in touch with Edwards's mother Sarah-Anne after the star's death. He said: "We kept in touch with Dunc's mum at Dudley," he said. "Iris and I went to see her after his death, along with my mum. She was very proud of him."

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## WILL INQUEST ESTABLISH WHAT HAPPENED TO MY DEAD SON IN POLICE CUSTODY?

**Q:** My son went for a night out in town when he was on Army leave and ended up in the police station where he tragically died. There has been a police inquiry but I don't know the outcome. Now there is going to be an inquest. How can I find out what people say happened so I don't have to hear it for the first time at the inquest? Will the Coroner explore the events leading to his death?

**A:** The inquest is just to confirm the 'who' 'what' 'where' 'when' and 'how' of the death. The 'how' will only be examined as far as giving the Coroner enough information to return one of the allowed forms of verdict. These include: death as a result of natural causes; death caused by industrial disease, drugs, lack of care, neglect or self-neglect; death caused by suicide, accident/misadventure; unlawful killing; an open verdict when the evidence does not reveal the cause of death. In your son's case, possible verdicts that might be investigated could be natural causes, lack of care by the police, accident/misadventure or even unlawful killing.

The only way to find out what has been previously said about your son's death would be to obtain disclosure of the written evidence and statements before the inquest. You can request this from the Coroner on payment of a fee. The Coroner will only investigate the case as far as is needed for one of the set verdicts to be reached, which may not establish what happened in the lead-up to your son's death. If you wished to make a claim against the Police that would be a job for a different Court. Given that you cannot at this stage know what the verdict might be, you should seek legal representation as soon as possible.

Further information relating to this question is available from Claire Parfitt, a Solicitor with GHP Legal. For an appointment visit [www.ghplegal.com](http://www.ghplegal.com) or contact one of our offices: Oswestry 01691 659194, Chirk 01691 777949, Wrexham 01978 291456, Llangollen 01978 860313. We offer free legal diagnostic clinics (no appointment necessary). In Oswestry, Wednesdays 12noon-3pm for Personal Injury, Employment & Family matters. In Wrexham, Mondays 9.30am-12noon for Employment matters, 12noon - 3pm for Personal Injury & Family matters. GHP Legal is authorised and regulated by the SRA 51566, and Lexcel Accredited.

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## Letters

# Pedestrian's aim is just to stay alive

RE: Traffic speed in Oswestry. Councillor Mike Isherwood talks a great deal of sense on this subject and his key word is 'domination' – the motorist has it all and the pedestrians have none.

In my opinion the traffic in Oswestry has

doubled in the last 10 years and its speed increased dramatically.

One-way streets seriously reduce a pedestrian's access across that road – I invite you to test crossing Oswald Road – it is a nightmare. The driver's object is to get

from A to B in the shortest possible time – the pedestrian's object is to stay alive! Have you ever wondered just how many millions have died under the motor vehicle?

BOB WYDELL  
Oswestry

# Film of bus was taken during the war years



This picture of a Hampsons bus in Oswestry was emailed in by John Powell who tells us that it is a still from an 8mm film. John said: "The 'Star' in the background is not the Shropshire Star or Express & Star, but is the sign from the pub in Bailey Street, Oswestry that was demolished many years ago. This was filmed during World War Two and at that time Bailey Street was two way traffic with the bus facing down from the Bailey Head."

## Abuse levels make you wonder what UK is becoming

IT was shocking to hear of domestic abuse in Oswestry.

Police reported 826 incidents and that's just the ones that came to their notice. Why this level of violence? What is our country coming to? These figures represent a mountain of misery, a sea of sorrows and tears, cruelty, anger, fear, heartache and children damaged for life. Home and family should be a place of love, warmth and safety.

Respecting and caring for each other. The Beatles used to sing, love, love, all you need is love. Just like the sunshine, the love of God our Father is pouring down upon us. Reach out, open the windows of our hearts and let it flood in.

We should pray for those caught up in such circumstances. We were once taught the Lord's Prayer, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. His kingdom is love, joy and peace, imagine Heaven on earth – we could do with some of that. No fighting, killing, filthy language or child abuse.

**RON JONES**  
St Martins

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Readers' Letters,  
The Chronicle,  
14 Salop Road,  
Oswestry, SY11 2NU

### EMAIL

iain.stjohn@  
shropshirestar.co.uk

## Voters will decide the MPs' futures

THE MPs not supporting Brexit are rather like turkeys voting for Christmas, Tory and Labour MPs should not need reminding that the electorate will decide their future.

Young voters will not be fooled twice after Corbyn's deception at the last election promising the young things he could not possibly deliver. The electorate of this wonderful country is supportive of our Monarchy and as Corbyn has shown disrespect to Her Majesty he cannot, and should not, be head of Her Majesty's Government.

**PETER HARMAN**  
Newport

## Outrageous legal action over failure to secure contract

TAX exile Mr Richard Branson and his company have got a cheek, suing the health service, after failing to win a contract to provide children health services in Surrey.

Why is the NHS handing out contracts to businessmen like Branson?

The county felt care would be better provided by a partnership of NHS organisations.

Goldilocks and his company claimed the bidding was flawed and took legal action, resulting in the NHS having to pay out around £328,000 to settle the dispute.

The people of Surrey should be outraged. Mr Branson does not need the money, but Surrey hospitals do.

Businessmen, like Branson, would love to see the NHS go bankrupt. Virgin has already positioned itself. The company has already been awarded contracts worth more than £2 billion since 2010.

Many more privatised companies will move in and fill their boots.

**RON JOWETT**  
Shifnal

## Brexit process is becoming needlessly complicated

AN Open Letter to the Right Hon. David Davis MP

Dear David, I write to you in your capacity as Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union and as a former Parliamentary colleague. I can well understand that in seeking to extract the UK from the EU you are obliged to follow the procedure laid down in Article 50 and that you are also constrained by what your Cabinet colleagues will tolerate. That being said, there is no point in pretending that you can deliver results which common-sense alone tells us are simply unattainable.

Even if the EU negotiators were willing to give the UK the sort of deal we want, they cannot do so, firstly because the EU does not allow exceptions to the rule and secondly because of the real fear that, in the event of a more advantageous deal being struck with Britain, other EU member States will demand the same terms and that the whole EU project might then unravel. Of greater concern is the effect that the protracted negotiations are having upon us all here at home. Let us tell M. Barnier et al specifically what it is that we are wanting in return for the compromises and concessions already made and leave them in no doubt that we will walk away if they do not agree. At a stroke the ongoing uncertainty and the unaffordable loss of worldwide opportunities, not to mention our hefty EU contributions, would be ended and the intervening period prior to March 29, 2019 would become the 'transition period'. In all probability you will dismiss this suggestion as being too simplistic but the fact of the matter is that it is only the politicians and the bureaucrats who are making the implementation of the clearly expressed will of the people so needlessly complicated!

**CHRISTOPHER GILL**  
Former Ludlow MP

## Blame otters over mussels

THE decline in fresh water mussels is blamed in parts on climate change.

However, otters are probably to blame, as a result of a huge increase in their numbers since they were protected.

Mussel shells will be found in the spraints (droppings) of otters, the mollusc being a favourite food of this now common mammal.

As with badgers that have recently decimated hedgehog numbers, now otters, too, are not allowed to be mentioned for eating their natural prey, but it offends those who can see no wrong with what animals do, never mind that overprotected species wipe out more vulnerable ones.

**W F KERSWELL**  
Church Stretton

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## Plea after boiler stolen by thieves

POLICE want to trace thieves who stole a boiler from outside a house in Gobowen near Oswestry.

Officers say that an old working boiler had been left outside a property in Hammonds Place on January 24/25 for collection.

A police spokesman said: "An unknown man and woman parked up in a white Citroen type van, got out and knocked on the door of the house. After a few attempts the man walked up to the old boiler, picked it up, loaded it into the van and drove off."

The man is described as tanned with dark hair and a beard and was wearing a black hoodie, dark trousers, a 'high-vis' jacket and white shoes.

The woman is said to have been wearing dark clothes including a hoodie and was stockily built.

## Sickness rates have increased

STAFF sickness rates at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital have increased in the last month, figures have revealed.

Board members at a recent meeting at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital heard how long-term sickness absences had affected numbers.

The report from Jan Hornby, interim director of HR, said the most common reason for long-term absences were musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions, with coughs, colds and flu the most common for short-term sickness.

Within the report, the trust stated it would be carrying out work to improve the figures by piloting an MSK health awareness course in February, as part of the CQUIN action plan.

It also stated that there will be an increased focus on management of long-term absence.

Report by Jonny Drury

**PLANS** to build homes near a college would lead to a huge increase in traffic, concerned residents have claimed.

Derwen College has applied to build 33 residential homes on land off Southlands Avenue in Gobowen, near Oswestry, to cater for students with disabilities and learning difficulties.

But the plans have been met with objections from residents who also claim a covenant on land exempts it from any general development. Valerie Francis, of Southlands Avenue, believes the planning documents does not take into account a "huge increase" in traffic along Whittington Road.

Ms Francis, in a letter to the council, said: "It would appear the new management of The Derwen has not given any consideration to their own residents."

"They will have to compete with the large increase in vehicle traffic, at least another 30 vehicles and many more pedestrians through the avenue."

Another resident, Richard Adams, believes the land cannot be used for general development purposes due to a strict covenant issued early in the 20th century.

Peter Lorimer, who bought a property near to the proposed development site, believes he faces losing a unique selling point of his home if the plans are approved.

He said: "When I purchased my property the overriding reason was the clear and uninterrupted views of the greenfield areas to the rear and to the Oswestry fort beyond."

The proposed development will comprise seven two bedroom and 22 three bedroom homes, plus three bedroom social housing properties.

## Traffic concerns over college's homes bid

## Anger as memorial tree chopped back



The memorial tree at Pontfadog Church which has been cut back

A FATHER has criticised the actions of a church after a tree he planted 13 years ago in memory of his daughter was significantly cut back.

Bob Hughes planted a cherry tree in memory of his daughter Amy at Pontfadog Church in 2005, after she lost her battle with cancer three weeks before her 18th birthday.

She would have been 31 on January 31, and on a recent visit to the church near Oswestry Mr Hughes was shocked to discover the state of the tree.

All the branches had been cut back off the tree, with Mr Hughes left baffled as to who would do such a thing.

Mr Hughes has since been in touch with the church, who blamed the vicar at the time for wrongly advising where the tree should be planted. An angry Mr Hughes said: "I planted the tree in 2005 and the people responsible for this were the parochial council and their voluntary little vandals. I have had a response from them. They are blaming the vicar for wrongly advising me, but it is a bit late 13 years later."

A representative of the church confirmed the mission area leader would be speaking to Mr Hughes.

A GARDEN for spinal injured patients at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital to enjoy will include a pavilion where they can see the flowers and greenery away from bad weather, if plans are approved.

An application for the garden outside the hospital ward at the Midlands Centre for Spinal Injuries has been submitted to Shropshire Council for planning permission.

Horatio's Garden, which could be built on disused land at the orthopaedic hospital, would be the fourth created at specialist spinal centres across the UK.

Designed by landscaper, writer and radio personality, Bunny Guinness, it will include outdoor power points so that beds and their lifesaving equipment can be wheeled outside and plugged in.

The pavilion will include a central log burner and areas where patients and visitors can watch a film or socialise together.

Bunny Guinness said: "Horatio's Gardens really are a breath of fresh air as they provide all the benefits of a garden to people who really appreciate them."

"For the patients, it may well be their first venture into the outside world again. For their friends, families and staff, the gardens provide a softer, more personable space away from the ward. I am privileged to be involved in this exciting project." The garden and maintenance will cost £700,000 and three quarters of the funding has already been raised, including a donation from the hospital's league of friends.

For further information or to support the project go to [horatiosgarden.org.uk](http://horatiosgarden.org.uk).

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# Residents are asked to flag up their pothole woe

A COUNCILLOR is urging residents to keep reporting the growing number of potholes on a town's roads.

Welshpool County Councillor Graham Breeze said he has been inundated with complaints about the conditions of the town's roads, caused by the frost and snow.

He is reminding residents that it is vital to keep reporting problems to Powys County Council.

Councillor Breeze said by reporting the problems, council bosses can prioritise their work to ensure the worst problems are looked at.

He said: "We know that the weather conditions continue to have a detrimental impact on the conditions of roads and Welshpool is being affected as badly as other towns in Powys."

"Roads are regularly inspected but it is important that members of the public continue to report all problems to the council's highways team so that priorities can be drawn up to tackle the most urgent situations."

"Some of the potholes have been particularly bad and I know that the department has moved quickly to carry out emergency repairs but we also have to consider that there may yet be more bad weather to come."

"And that will mean further damage."

The local authority has purchased two new specialist machines for pothole repairs which will go into service this year.

The machines will help to speed up pothole repairs as well as improving the quality and durability of the work, according to Councillor Breeze.

Any potholes that appear to be growing or are causing concern to residents should be reported on (01597) 827465.

**Report by Sue Austin**

## AN X-factor-style competition to find Oswestry's first town crier in 30 years could be held in the spring.

Oswestry Town Council voted for the new post at a meeting on Wednesday last week as part of its move to promote the town.

Although the role will be voluntary the town council will provide the uniform and give a small honorarium during the first year.

However the crier will be allowed to negotiate commercial appearances as long as he or she is a public ambassador for Oswestry.

A large voice is not the only thing needed for the role.

The draft job description says: "The town crier would have to: have strong ties to Oswestry; have an outgoing personality; have reasonable knowledge of the history of Oswestry; be able to project their voice.

"You are required to be clean, smart, sober, polite and jovial."

Following the meeting, Councillor Paul Milner said a town crier would be a great asset for Oswestry.

He said: "It is part of tradition and fits into our character as a market town."

The person taking on the role would be expected to attend all Oswestry civic events and major events in the town, such as the food festival in July and Christmas Live at the beginning of December.

Advertising will begin for a town crier in the next couple of weeks and the council is expected to run a fun competition to help choose from the applicants.

# Oyez, new job will be worth shouting about

## Students experience life in theatre



The live theatre event has been deemed a huge success

STUDENTS and secondary school pupils from around Oswestry have taken part in Operating Theatre Live at a hospital.

As part of North Shropshire College's Careers Week, students have been involved in the programme delivered by Samuel Piri, a UK leading anatomist and teacher, who provides the only portable operating theatre allowing learners the chance to work on real organs.

The organs are harvested from pigs to provide a realistic anatomy for the learners to work on.

The college along with Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital sponsored the event to conclude a successful Careers Week which had taken place at the college.

Allen Edwards, training advisor at the hospital, said: "We are very excited to work in partnership with NSC to welcome Lakelands Academy, St Martins School, The Marches Academy, The Corbet School, Glyndwr University and Moreton Hall School, to take part in theory and lectures on medicine with Operating Theatre Live."

"I have enjoyed working with Jo White, business development manager at NSC, to jointly sponsor this event."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Inquest date set on TV soap actor

AN inquest into the death of a former TV soap star will take place later this month.

Iain Rogerson, of Church View, Chirk, died at the Wrexham Maelor Hospital on October 13 last year.

Mr Rogerson appeared in a string of soaps including Casualty, Emmerdale, The Bill, Doctors, and was more known for playing Harry Flagg in Coronation Street between 2002 and 2004.

At the inquest opening, coroner for North East Wales John Gittins said Mr Rogerson, who also appeared in a string of films, had been admitted to hospital following a suspected overdose of insulin.

The inquest into the former actor's death will take place at County Hall in Ruthin on February 28.

### Guide programme will be extended

GUIDE Dogs for the Blind is extending its voluntary led scheme in Oswestry and surrounding areas.

The established national scheme, called My Guide, assists people who have sight loss get out of their homes and regain their confidence and independence by matching them with trained local sighted guide volunteers in areas where they live.

Volunteers will spend two to three hours a week, guiding and supporting their partner on regular trips out.

The pair will agree at the start of their partnership what activities they would like to do together.

The volunteer matching process looks at many factors to ensure that My Guide partnerships are compatible for all.

For further information on how to apply to be a My Guide volunteer contact Val Jobes, volunteer development co-ordinator, on 03451 430226.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Hundreds of homes empty

THERE were almost 2,000 empty houses in Powys last year according to new figures.

The number of homes that were vacant and not in use stood at 1,810, however 25 of those had been brought back into use in the year 2016/17.

The information came to light at a recent Powys County Council full council meeting after a notice of motion was put forward by the Liberal Democrat group on the local authority. They demanded that the cabinet provide an analysis as to why the properties are empty, and provide figures for the length of time they have been empty.

### Windows broken by town vandals

BUSINESSES in Welshpool have been left angered after a recent spate of vandalism has seen a number of windows in the town broken.

A window on the former Rowland's Chemist was broken over the weekend, and the next door property of Halls was also recently attacked.

Dyfed-Powys Police have identified a suspect.

Welshpool Police tweeted: "Sadly, despite officers being visible 500 yards from the location, revellers cause mindless damage to shop front. Suspect identified."

It comes after a week where a number of businesses were broken into, with police arresting a suspect in connection with the offences.

Anyone who has any information on any of the crimes should call Welshpool Police on 101.

# Yellow Triangle scheme could be a life-saver

Report by Jonny Drury

**MOTORISTS** in Powys are being urged to sign up to a scheme that could help emergency services find possible life-saving information about a driver in an accident.

Powys County Council's Yellow Triangle scheme gives emergency services the opportunity to quickly determine the driver's details in the event of the collision.

The scheme has two elements, a "Your Details" card and a yellow triangle sticker.

The card will give information about the driver's next of kin, medical conditions, allergies and medications. Drivers keep this card in the glove compartment of their vehicle.

The yellow triangle is displayed in the bottom left hand corner inside the windscreen, out of the driver's field of view, to inform the emergency services that the information is in the glove compartment.

Cllr Liam Fitzpatrick, cabinet member for highways, said: "Ensuring that our roads are safe is hugely important for our county."

"This latest initiative will provide emergency services with vital information if a driver is involved in a collision. I urge all Powys drivers to take advantage of this worthwhile scheme."

To request a 'Yellow Triangle' scheme pack, telephone (01597) 826979.

## Big breakfasts to celebrate farming



Glyn Davies, Russell George, Aled Roberts and FUW Montgomeryshire CEO Emrys Wyn Davies enjoy a hearty breakfast

TWO politicians visited a farm to celebrate FUW's Breakfast Week.

Montgomeryshire Assembly Member Russell George and MP Glyn Davies were at Plas Du Farm in Llanrhedra.

There they met FUW county chairman Aled Roberts and celebrated the national campaign enjoying locally-produced farmhouse breakfast produce.

In addition to raising the profile of Welsh farming, those who supported the breakfast helped the FUW raise money for charity.

Half the fund will go to the Royal Welsh Show with the rest split between the FUW charities Alzheimer's Society Cymru and the Farming Community Network.

Mr George said: "It was great to discuss issues affecting the agriculture industry around the breakfast table, and celebrate locally produced foods.

"There are significant challenges facing the industry, and events like this that bring about informal discussions between farmers and politicians are crucial."

## Alison is recognised for swim club work

WELSHPOOL Sharks Swimming Club has honoured one of its long-serving volunteers, Alison Wilding.

She won the Volunteer of the Year award at the recent presentation evening in recognition of her unstinting support to the club.

Alison's commitment to the club extends over 15 years and she continues to help at weekly coaching sessions.

Club chairman Bronwen Poole said: "The time and effort that Alison continues to give to our club and the development of our swimmers is remarkable.

"Without the dedication and commitment of individuals like Alison we simply couldn't continue to run as many training sessions as we do and her continued enthusiasm is an inspiration to us all."

"The work of volunteers often goes unnoticed and taken for granted. This award seeks to recognise individuals such as Alison who give up a large part of their lives, voluntarily to make things happen. Without Alison and a few others, the club simply wouldn't exist and our youngsters wouldn't have the opportunity to swim competitively."

During the evening, other awards were presented with trophy winners including James Edwards for best performance, Summer Wygold, best newcomer and Grace Jones most improved.

The most dedicated trophy went to Jamie Marsden-Jones and the swimmers' awards to Medi Lewis and Teilo Gittins-Turner.

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## 12 Farming group celebrates 100th anniversary

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, February 15, 2018

A FARMING group which began in a Mid Wales village and grew all over the UK is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

The Wynnstay Group was founded in Llanfairfechan near Oswestry by farmer members and has now grown to cover areas in Scotland, Lancashire, Yorkshire, the Midlands, and South West Wales.

The agriculture business will mark the milestone by promising 2018 will be a year of celebrations for the company and its customers.

Chief executive Ken Greetham said: "Having been established as a farmer co-operative on the January 17, 1918, we're extremely proud that a century on, the business remains true to its roots and farmer focused."

Mr Greetham explained a host of events would take place in 2018 to celebrate the milestone.

He said: "Celebrations will include staff charity challenges, local fundraisers and the production of a limited edition centenary grassland mix. We're also excited to announce the launch of the Wynnstay Innovation and Excellence Awards."

Open to all farmers in the UK, the awards will celebrate success and innovation across all sectors of the UK farming industry, from arable through to dairy, beef, sheep and poultry.

## Safety alert over latest phone scam

A NATIONAL telephone scam aiming to steal money from people has reached homes in the Dyfed-Powys area.

The force has issued a warning about the scams, which involve people claiming to be from BT and calling residents about problems with internet speeds.

Paul Callard, of Dyfed-Powys Police's financial crime team, said: "Action Fraud has made us aware three people living in Dyfed-Powys have been contacted by fraudsters claiming to be from BT, in the past four days.

"Victims receive a telephone call from someone pretending to be from BT who is calling due to a problem with the victim's internet connection speed.

"During the call the victim is asked to open their online banking, eBay, Tesco and other accounts. The scammer then tries to gain remote access to the victim's computer to empty the victim's bank account. BT will never ask for remote access to your computer or access to your online bank account.

"We urge anyone who receives unsolicited or cold calls from any company hang up immediately." Victims of fraud, attempted fraud, or cyber crime should call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

## Budget of £211m is set for police

A £211 million budget has been set for policing West Mercia, with the police share of council tax increasing by about four per cent.

The 2018/19 budget has been confirmed by police and crime commissioner John Campion, who said rising inflation was behind the increase, along with the demand on police services. Mr Campion said the budget would also protect the number of frontline constables and PCSOs.

He said: "This budget ensures both short and long term challenges can be met while keeping council tax increases to a minimum. It ensures our police have the resources they need to meet changing demands while protecting the visible, neighbourhood policing our communities need."

"The necessary work to modernise West Mercia Police and the service it delivers to our communities will continue. Projects such as mobile working and body worn video have already been delivered and are helping deliver a more effective, efficient police service."

"This budget builds on that by ensuring a new state of the art control centre can be delivered this year, as well as changes to focus a greater proportion of police resources where they should be – in our communities."

# Marston's enjoys a £4m Christmas gift as brewery looks to expand its operations

MARSTON'S enjoyed record Christmas Day sales of £4 million in its pubs and restaurants.

The Midland company, which has scores of pubs across Shropshire and Mid Wales, revealed the figure in a trading update ahead of its annual general meeting.

For the 16 weeks to January 20 there was growth in both sales and underlying earnings, helped by the acquisition of the Charles Wells Brewing Business in May last year and the contribution from 19 new-build pubs added in its last financial year.

Snow and icy weather in early December and between Christmas and the new year, caused some unavoidable disruption to the business and caused a £1m reduction in profits.

Chief executive Ralph Findlay said he was

very pleased with the Christmas Day performance which was 5.4 per cent up on the year.

"It shows that people are now more likely to go out and celebrate on the big day and our pubs are capturing a share of that," he said.

Mr Findlay said Wolverhampton-based Marston's was maintaining a decent level of growth and not discounting heavily like some rivals in the industry.

The brewery is continuing to invest in new pubs and expansions of its existing buildings.

Ten new jobs will be created after planning permission was granted to build a 26-bedroom budget hotel near a canal on the Shropshire

border. Marston's is set to build this year on land next to the Poachers pub and restaurant in Chirk Bank, near Oswestry.

The plans for the hotel also include 30 extra car parking spaces and alterations to the existing beer garden and play area at the pub.

The pub is popular with canal boaters and walkers, with its position being right next to the canal.

Weston Rhyn Parish Council gave no objection to the application in principle, and acknowledged the importance of "job creation for local people and the demand for economic hotel accommodation in this area".

Total sales for Marston's for the 16 weeks to January 20 were up 4.9 per cent reflecting the contribution from the estate expansion.

Like-for-like sales in the period, excluding the impact of the two snow-affected weeks, were up 1.1 per cent. The weather impact on like-for-like sales was around two per cent and on an unadjusted basis like-for-like sales were down 0.9 per cent in the period.

Marston's Beer Company achieved good growth in the period with own-brewed volumes up 33 per cent. In addition to the acquisition of Charles Wells it was helped by distribution gains achieved in 2017 and a stronger brand portfolio in the premium ale, craft beer and 'world beer' segments of the market.

"Overall we had a fantastic first quarter in our beer business with very strong growth. There was a good performance across all our six breweries," added Mr Findlay.

# Hub idea 'will cut number of children put into care'

Report by Keri Trigg

A PLANNED overhaul of how families in Shropshire receive support and intervention will mean fewer children being taken into care, the council hopes.

Proposals to start a public consultation on opening new Early Help Family Hubs have been passed by Shropshire Council's cabinet.

The aim of the hubs would be to streamline the delivery of family services to prevent situations escalating to a point where more serious – and expensive – intervention is needed.

A report put before cabinet outlined how all people who work with families would be brought together under the new Early Help Service, to be delivered at hubs within communities. It also highlighted a potential saving to the council of £875,000.

It comes as the number of children in the care of the authority has risen by around 10 per cent in recent months.

### Mark

Councillor Nicholas Bardsley, portfolio holder for children and young people, told the cabinet meeting the figure was now around the 330 mark, having previously been 300.

Outlining the proposals, he said: "It will save Shropshire Council money over the next few years, but more importantly it will help keep Shropshire children and their families happy, safe and healthy in the long term. So that's fewer of our children getting pulled into what can be expensive and unwelcome intervention.

"It's going to help reduce the number of children who come into care and into the other services. No-one wants to see children coming into care and I am absolutely sure that for every single child that has been brought into care, every other option has been looked at first."

Councillor Bardsley said if the new system was implemented following the consultation it would "make a real difference" to families accessing the service.

Councillor Madge Shineton spoke at the meeting in support of the proposal. She said: "All I ask is that we do pull all the strands together."

"I feel that we do sometimes need to be pro-active. It has got to be more cost-effective."

Council leader Peter Nutting added: "I agree that the more we can get services working together in one place has got to be better for the community."

## Pub landlord's anger at burglary consequences



Stills of the suspected burglars taken from the CCTV footage which filmed the burglary at the Stanton House Inn in Chirk near Oswestry

"ANGER, that's the main emotion," says landlord Mark Jones, who is still counting the cost after burglars struck at his pub near Oswestry while he slept upstairs.

Mark, 51, had been landlord at the Stanton House Inn for 17 years when raiders stole more than £2,000 from the pub last month.

It was the first time since he took the reins at the premises that he had been burgled.

Despite being captured on CCTV images that have been watched thousands of times the burglars have still not been brought to justice.

Since the burglary at the Chirk pub he has

had to shell out £1,000 on improving security, including updated alarms and bars to stop any repeat incidents.

He said: "My main feeling was that I am angry.

"All the hassle after with insurance, having to update the alarms cost an extra £1,000.

"I have had new monitors put in and bars on the windows.

"You think you are safe.

"I have been here 17 years and there have been no break-ins and they got in through a little gap at the top of a window that you would

never think of." Mr Jones said that the whole incident, in which £600 belonging to a community group was also taken, has had a big effect on the business.

He said: "That is a big hit for a little business. Insurance have still not settled up, I am just lucky I am in a position where I can manage but some people would not be so lucky."

Asked what he would say to other people he said: "Just make sure you have the latest alarms, the best thing is probably a little dog because if that barks then it is likely to scare them off."

# Concern raised at cashless dinner payment scheme

A POLITICIAN has voiced her concerns about a cashless school dinner payment system in Powys.

Mid and West Wales Labour AM Joyce Watson raised the issue of Powys County Council's system, and how the authority has decided to stop serving lunch to high school pupils whose parents have not credited their payment cards.

The politician acknowledged that the council needs to tackle debt, but insisted it shouldn't lead to children going hungry.

She said in the Senedd: "There's an evident

link between cashless payment systems and better take-up of free school meals, that's why I have campaigned for every council to introduce the system to every school in Wales."

"Powys has done that, which is fantastic, but we now have a situation whereby children whose parents pay for lunch and who haven't topped up their cards will no longer be able to get food."

"I understand the council's position, but it cannot be right that a child should go hungry because mum or dad has forgotten or cannot

afford to pay the dinner money that week. I am particularly concerned that this is sorted out before the introduction of Universal Credit to Powys in June, as we still don't know how this will affect eligibility for free school meals, in terms of dropping on or off the register."

In response, First Minister Carwyn Jones agreed children should not miss out on school meals and agreed to refer the matter to the education minister.

He said: "My own son's school introduced cashless payments this term, which I have to

say, saved on scrambling around for pound coins every week, which is what tended to happen in our house."

"The important point is this: I don't think it would be right that if there's no credit in a child's account, as it were, that that child should not have a meal as a result of that."

"There should be a system in place where parents are reminded in a timely fashion as to what the balance is on that account and not find out about it when the account has nothing in it."

# Talented youngsters awarded prestigious music scholarships



Freddie Faragher is off to The Purcell School



Reuben and Elliot won music scholarships to Shrewsbury School

Three Shrewsbury High Prep pupils are celebrating after being awarded top music scholarships.

Reuben Lindsay-Bowen and Elliot Inger have both been offered music scholarships at Shrewsbury School for September.

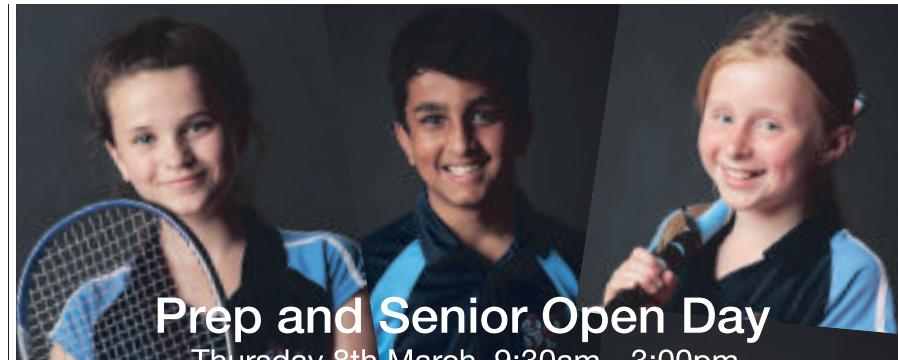
Feedback from the school described Elliot as "a young chap whose focus and determination impresses when it comes to his music and in interview he was charming and enthusiastic". Elliot, an all-round Hatfields scholar at Shrewsbury High Prep, plays the saxophone and clarinet, as well as performing with the school's Trebles

## Commercial feature

ensemble. Reuben Lindsay-Bowen was described as "fearless on the French horn... with an impressive, attacking style. His singing was simply gorgeous and many on the panel commented on the natural beauty of his voice, especially for one so young". Freddie Faragher, also in Year 8 and a Hatfields music scholar, has been celebrating his music scholarship award from The Purcell School in Hertfordshire, the oldest specialist music school in the country, whose patrons include HRH The Prince of Wales, Sir Simon Rattle CBE and Dame Kiri Te Kanawa DBE.

Freddie's mum was thrilled at how Freddie's talents had already been nurtured. "It was the strength of the music offer at Shrewsbury High Prep that drew us to the school and we have been completely delighted by the way that Freddie's talents have been encouraged, developed and nurtured by the school."

Hatfields scholarships are available to boys entering Year 7. The school will hold an open day on Thursday March 8. To find out more please call 01743 494038.



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Oswestry & Border Chronicle

Thursday, February 15, 2018

# 14 Woman injured and dog killed in car collision

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, February 15, 2018

A WOMAN walking her dog was seriously injured and her pet dog was killed when they were hit by a car.

Police have launched an appeal for witnesses after the collision.

The collision happened shortly before 6.15pm on Friday last week in Colliery Road, Chirk near Oswestry.

North Wales Police said the 57-year-old woman was taken to Wrexham's Maelor Hospital by ambulance with serious leg injuries.

She was then transferred to the Royal Stoke University Hospital.

However her dog died at the scene.

Pc Robert Williams, of the Roads Policing Unit, said: "I am appealing for anybody who may have witnessed the collision to come forward."

"Equally if anybody has any dash cam footage from their vehicle, or if anybody who lives in the vicinity that has private CCTV that may assist our investigation I would urge them to contact us immediately."

Anybody with information is asked to contact officers at the Roads Policing Unit on 101, or via the live web chat quoting reference number W016411.

Alternatively, contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111 or at [crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org)

## Firm offering free law advice at new clinics

A LAW team is offering free legal advice to families in Chirk near Oswestry.

GHP Legal, which has offices in Wrexham and Oswestry, has launched a free weekly drop-in clinic in Chirk for people seeking advice about the legal aspects of divorce, separation and related family issues.

The Chirk clinics will take place at Spring House, Holyhead Road, every Wednesday morning between 9am and 11am.

People will be able to drop in without an appointment and have an informal chat in a confidential setting with an experienced family lawyer, all free of charge and without obligation.

People can also call and request a free consultation appointment with a member of the GHP Legal family team at a more convenient day or time.

The clinics will be run by Alison Peters, a partner with GHP Legal, and her colleagues Linda Hill and Anne Davies, who are senior solicitors with considerable experience and specialise in all aspects of family law.

Advice will be available on annulment, children issues, civil partnership and dissolution, cohabitation disputes, divorce, domestic violence injunctions, financial matters, international disputes, judicial separation, mediation and prenuptials.

## Motorist was over the drinks limit

A DRINK-driver has been banned from the road and fined after being found to have drunk more than two times the legal limit.

Laura Ann Richards from Weston Road, Morda, near Oswestry, pleaded guilty to drink-driving.

The unemployed 26-year-old gave a reading of 75 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath - 40 microgrammes above the limit of 35.

Telford Magistrates Court heard how Richards had drank a bottle of wine at home before being caught in her Vauxhall Astra at the Maesbury Road Industrial Park. Prosecuting, Abigail Hall, said: "At approximately 2.20am in the morning, officers were on routine patrol when they spotted the car driving in Oswestry as it approached a junction. She told officers she had come from her home address and when asked if she'd been drinking she admitted she'd had a bottle of wine."

"She said she'd slept for a few hours and had left in her car to go and purchase another bottle."

She represented herself and made no comment to the court. District Judge Kevin Grego banned her from the road for 20 months. She was also ordered to pay a £150 fine, £135 in costs and a £30 victim surcharge.

# Couple's fundraising efforts in memory of teenage son now over the £125,000 mark

WHEN their son died at the age of 17 from an undiagnosed heart problem, Sue Dewhurst and her husband Chris did not want to see other families suffering.

They set about creating a legacy that would never see their son forgotten, but at the same time putting measures in place to make sure no-one suffered the same fate.

Almost six years on, with the help of family, friends and supporters, the couple have managed to raise over £125,000 towards Cardiac Risk for the Young.

The money has helped Mrs Dewhurst, from St Martins near Oswestry, hold a number of events in recent years to give free heart screening to young people between 14 and 35.

It all began after her son Matthew died from

## Report by Jonny Drury

Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome in 2012, when he collapsed while doing fitness sessions.

Mrs Dewhurst has vowed to continue raising awareness and charitable funds to keep Matthew's legacy alive.

She said: "We are really pleased with the total, although I did think we would have raised more but my maths isn't as good as others. We've been raising this money ever since we lost Matthew, and it has been fantastic the amount of people who have supported the case."

"The money has been raised through balls, and fundraising events by family members and friends, and support from local businesses

and organisations. I think a lot of people have backed this, because they can see the work being done locally, rather than going in a big pot and heading to London."

The money has been put towards screening of both male and females, and to people who are both athletes and non-athletes.

It costs £50 per person for each screening, but Mrs Dewhurst says it is vital people come forward to be tested even if they show no symptoms.

She has been attempting to encourage the footballers in her home village of St Martins to be tested. She said: "You don't have to have symptoms, but you should still come forward to check if something is wrong and it can be put right."

"The money goes with Cardiac Risk for the Young, and then I have to arrange various screening sessions, usually over a weekend, which can cost around £10,000."

Sue added: "One story was of a swimmer at national level and his sister, who came to be screened because it was thought the sister may have a problem."

"He was found to have a heart problem that if undetected could have killed him. He had open heart surgery and now is back training, so it shows they really make a difference. I saw him recently and he gave me a hug, that hug meant a million dollars." Further fundraising events are set to take place with a hen party in Wem in April, and Ladies Day at Ascot in June at Baschurch Polo Club.

# Plans are lodged for shops in old rail station building

## Report by Jonny Drury

AN application has been submitted to change a listed railway station building near Oswestry into shops and financial service offices.

Units at Gobowen Railway Station have been vacant for many years.

The Oswestry Station Building Trust has submitted an application for change of use and to make alterations to the Grade II listed building.

As part of the project the station office and nearby pharmacy would remain untouched, with the work taking place on the opposite side of the tracks near a new housing development. The changes would allow the units in the vacant building to be given a new lease of life.

The first phase would be to tackle severe damp in the building. Stage two would see minor internal alterations carried out in order to make the vacant unit more usable.

Dampness would also be addressed and permission for change of use is also being applied for, as the applicants say experience has proved that the previously intended use as light industrial workshops is generally unsuitable.

## Funds

When funds are available, stage three would centre around replacing cement rendering and other external repairs. Plans were first mooted to return the station to its former glory last July. The buildings were bought by Gobowen Area Improvement Group after being in private ownership for many years. The trust is acting as the facilitator of the work and is the owner and financial partner in the management of the project, working within the improvement group to plan the future developments.

There were fears the buildings could be sold at auction, but intervention by Selatyn and Gobowen Parish Council opened a path for the buildings to be secured for the community.

At the time Sheila Dee, community rail officer for the Chester Shrewsbury Rail Partnership and a member of the group, said: "This acquisition provides the foundation for an ambitious project to see the historic station returned to its former glory while also providing a connecting rail service to Oswestry with intermediate stations at the orthopaedic hospital and tourism venues along the route. The development will also considerably enhance the employment opportunities within the local area, particularly in tourism and engineering within the railway spectrum of the project."

## Fire apprentices celebrate personal success



Assistant Chief Fire Officer Dave Myers presents achievers' awards to apprentices Emily Hodson, Deryn Jones and Matt Titley

SCHOOL leavers who joined a fire apprentice scheme three years ago have been rewarded for their achievements along the way.

Apprentices were taken on by Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service for the first time three years ago, and three - who are from Oswestry, Telford, and Shrewsbury - have all been celebrating after success in exams, learning new skills, and gaining qualifications. Sam Titley, 21, was diagnosed with dyslexia on joining the Shrewsbury Fire HQ, and has now completed an NVQ level two in business administration.

He is now a fire safety apprentice in commu-

nity fire safety, and is training for his dream job as a youth worker. He was commended by receiving a Shining Star award from a dyslexia consultant, and now gives safety talks to schoolchildren on behalf of the fire and rescue service as part of his role.

Sam, who will study youth work at Wolverhampton College moving forward, said: "The support I've had is unbelievable."

Technical support officer Emily Hodson, 20, who is from Telford, has also received a special award in recognition of her innovative thinking and charitable work. She raised funds by

organising a bring your pet to work day to buy Smokey Paws pet oxygen masks for Shropshire firefighters, to revive animals suffering after inhaling smoke in a house fire.

Other success stories include 18-year-old Dan Adams, from Cruckton, whose ambition is to be a firefighter. He completed his NVQ level three business administration qualification and now works as a fire safety officer having done so. And web and graphic designer Deryn Jones, 21, from Oswestry, was awarded his NVQ level three in digital marketing for his hard work.

# Nurses' support scheme wins praise from bosses

A PROGRAMME to help nurses in the first year of their career is flourishing at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

A "preceptorship" programme has been running at the hospital for 18 months and helps the transition during the first year of a nurse's career from student nurse to nursing practitioner.

At a board meeting, Karin Evans, a practice development sister at the hospital, explained to board members how the programme was going and what challenges she faces across the hos-

pital. She took up the role to help others after enjoying a long career in nursing.

She said it was vitally important to bring through more nurses and nurture them for the future.

She said: "I am very privileged to be able to help young girls who will in the end look after us in the future, to become confident and competent practitioners."

"There is a problem with staff shortages, and there is a percentage of people leaving the job, but we want to properly support nurses."

"In the first year they need support and that is what we are offering."

The practice development sister also said that with a lot of nurses coming towards retirement age, there was a need to bring new young nurses through.

The programme begins in April and October, after two intakes of nurses at the hospital in Gobowen near Oswestry.

She is also looking to develop links with other departments such as therapists and radiographers, so nurses new to the role can familiarise

themselves with other areas of the hospital. Chief executive Mark Brandreth heaped praise on the work done with new nurses and said it was a credit to the hospital.

He added: "This is a major part of keeping nurses at the hospital. We have excellent staff nurses, who I believe could walk out of here into another job in an instant, but by providing the high quality of support they want to stay with us." A recent report revealed a national crisis in nurse recruitment, with more leaving the profession than entering it.

# HARLECH FOODSERVICE EXPO RETURNS TO VENUE CYMRU ON 20TH & 21ST FEBRUARY

North Wales' leading wholesale food supplier is returning to Llandudno's Venue Cymru with their ever popular hospitality and catering exhibition, now in its 40th year!

Harlech Foodservice Expo 2018 is set to be bigger and better than ever when it returns to Llandudno next month. The Expo, which will be held on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st February, is a fantastic opportunity for trade customers to see first-hand what Harlech's wide range of suppliers has to offer, with many exhibitors using the event to showcase new products.

Forty years since it began, and now established as one of the North West's leading catering events, Harlech Expo presents a diverse mix of catering and hospitality exhibitors offering product tastings and samples, menu inspiration, and practical advice as well as showcasing new seasonal trends and presentation ideas.

This will be the 5th year that the Expo has been held at Venue Cymru, which has proved an ideal location for the hundreds of hotel, restaurant and food industry professionals who attend the event from across North Wales, Shropshire, Merseyside, Cheshire and Manchester. Following the success of last years' event, which was the company's busiest to date with record-breaking sales and attendance figures, event organisers have once again booked extra capacity at the venue to allow for over 150 exhibitors across two floors, along with a designated cookery demo space.

Visitors can expect to see a wide range of both local and international suppliers including North Wales based businesses such as Patchwork Pate and Harlech's own award-winning Bwydlyn Butchers alongside household names such as Rodda's, Heinz, Nestle and Fentimans, and international giant Unilever.

Live cookery demos will once again be held in the specially created second floor demo area. The demos provide inspiration for chefs of all levels with the chance to see and sample products from the SOSA and Chef's Cuisine ranges, to ask questions and receive practical advice from top industry professionals.

The show also offers the opportunity for trade customers to take advantage of hundreds of exclusive offers with many exhibitors offering free samples and great incentives on show orders. From artisan producers and big name brands to chocolatier and fine wine master-classes the Foodservice Expo 2018 is certainly a must for anyone in the catering and hospitality industry.

For further information on Harlech Foodservice Expo 2018 call 01766 810 810, or to register online visit [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) and search for Harlech Expo.



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# Make sure you are ready for the road

## Commercial feature

Plunging temperatures and icy roads mean it is vital to ensure your vehicle is fit for the road.

The winter months are some of the worst for motor insurance claims so it is a crucial time to look after your car.

It's important to prepare your car well when you are driving in winter. The colder weather brings with it more difficult driving conditions and the increased risk of a breakdown. As a result, motorists can often find themselves unexpectedly stranded in their vehicles. Our vehicles need a bit of extra TLC at this time of year as we put them through their paces on journeys through wind, rain, sleet and snow. Carry out a few routine checks to ensure your wheels are up to the rigours of winter driving. Spend a bit of time on this now and it could save you the hassle and financial burden of an avoidable breakdown or accident further down the line. Make sure your vehicle is serviced.

We are lucky in the Welshpool and Oswestry area that we have many top quality garages happy to give advice and carry out the work that is needed to ensure your car can handle the bad weather.

They offer MOTs and services at competitive prices, giving you the peace of mind that your vehicle can handle the colder weather.

For other journeys you can consider renting cars or vans from our local firms.

It is important to ensure which ever vehicle you are using that it is ready for the road. You can regularly check the oil level, anti-freeze, hazard lights, wiper blades and battery.

Check the tyres for tread depth and pressure. Upgrade to a set of winter tyres for your car.

Clean your lights regularly and check the bulbs and make sure you're carrying de-icer and an ice scraper. De-ice your car before you travel, and ensure all windows are fully cleared of snow, frost and condensation.



Local garages in the Oswestry and Welshpool area will ensure your car is ready for adverse weather

Prepare an emergency breakdown kit, including a torch, bottled water, blanket, warm and waterproof clothing and a first aid kit and other items to pack include a reflective triangle, high-visibility jacket, jump leads and shovel.

Also think about leaving a selection of snacks and drinks in your boot in case you end up stuck in your car.

Spend time planning your journey, and don't

make unnecessary trips if the weather has turned.

Leave extra time for journeys in poor weather and tune into your local radio for regular traffic and weather reports and advice.

Ensure your mobile is fully charged and for longer journeys, let someone know when you expect to return.

No matter how long or short the journey, it's

vital to be extra vigilant on the roads during the winter.

Leave more space between you and the car in front, and drive more slowly.

Stay alert at all times and look out for pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

In cold or icy conditions, try to avoid braking hard.

Dropping gears instead of applying brakes



Make sure your car is ready for the colder weather conditions

can prevent skidding. When wild weather is on its way, that's the time to check your car policy is fully up to scratch.

If you don't have comprehensive breakdown cover in place, buy it now. It's a policy that doesn't need to cost the earth, and will give you peace of mind that you're protected and could prevent you having to endure a long wait in the cold.



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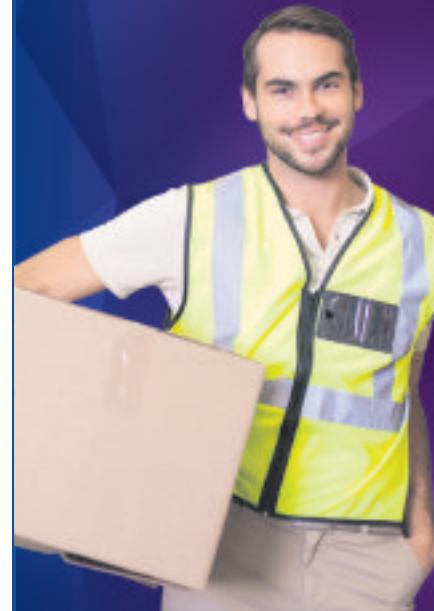
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## 18 Maths students take part in skill challenge

MATHS students at Oswestry's North Shropshire College recently took part in an interactive lesson designed to test and develop their problem solving and question interpretation skills.

The lesson was organised by Jo Millington, curriculum area manager for maths and English at the college, and was based on the Krypton Factor game show which originally aired in 1977.

The show, which ran for 20 series and was last shown on screens in 2010, saw contestants competing in a variety of rounds to test their mental and physical abilities.

The session included a competition between different teams of students, where topics within the current maths syllabus were covered.

The scores of each team were recorded during each challenge to promote and encourage the students to use their speaking and listening skills.

Jo said: "This has been an excellent opportunity for the students to develop skills that are critical for their course and for their future in the workplace."

"We are delighted by the enthusiasm shown by the students during the session and how they have progressed during their studies so far, and I hope sessions like this will help their skills develop further."

## Rotarians to collect cash for Harry's trust

ROTARIANS will be collecting money for a charity at The New Saints FC's Iron Bru Cup game on Saturday.

The Rotary Club of Oswestry will be out with the collecting buckets at the game after recently receiving a presentation from fundraiser Sally Johnson.

Mrs Johnson told members at their meeting about the Harry Johnson Trust, set up in memory of her son who died aged just seven.

Since it was formed over three years ago, the trust, which helps families of youngsters who are receiving oncology care, has raised over £200,000.

Oswestry Rotary Club's community chairman Mike Griffiths said: "I could see that all our members were listening closely and asking themselves what they would do in Sally's shoes."

"Fortunately, most of us will not have to go through that ordeal but I knew that we all wanted to help so we are grateful to The New Saints FC to allow our club to carry out a bucket collection at the Iron-Bru Cup semi-final against Dumbarton on Saturday to support Harry's charity."

"It is an evening kick off at 7.35pm so we are hoping that the crowds will be generous, as always, in supporting this wonderful cause."

## Arla buys dairy arm of company

THE UK's largest dairy co-op is set to get bigger following the acquisition of the dairy arm of Yeo Valley.

Arla said the deal will allow the processor to use the Yeo Valley brand for milk and cheese products under an intellectual licence. It comes after Arla announced plans to invest almost half-a-billion pounds in 2018 – including at its packing facility in Oswestry. "The potential for future investment in the range through this licensing agreement with Yeo Valley provides a significant opportunity to offer a greater choice to consumers at attractive prices," said Tomas Pietrangeli, managing director at Arla Foods. "Our ambition is to encourage customers to trade up from standard to organic milk, butter and cheese, driving overall growth for organic across dairy categories."

Mr Pietrangeli added: "Arla organic free-range milk has driven 60 per cent of the growth within the organic milk category in the past 12 months, with 70 per cent of all Arla organic free-range milk sales attributable to customers who would have not previously purchased organic milk." Tim Mead, Yeo Valley organic farmer and custodian of the family business, said Arla's farmer-owned credentials were a perfect fit with the ethos and values of Yeo Valley.

# Murder of Liverpool toddler James Bulger remains in the mind of detective to this day

TWENTY five years on and the debate still rages on.

Was justice served? Were they too young to go on trial? And is 10 too young to be charged with a crime?

On February 12, 1993, 10-year-olds Robert Thompson and Jon Venables snatched two-year-old James Bulger from a Merseyside shopping centre, caused him horrific injuries and then dumped his body on a railway line.

Phil Roberts was one of the lead detectives on the case who arrested, interviewed and charged Robert Thompson with the murder.

He grew up in Llanrhedr near Oswestry, left to work for the serious crime unit at Merseyside Police, before returning to his Mid Wales roots to enjoy his retirement.

### Report by Jonny Drury

But the Bulger case is never too far away from his mind, with the media attention it is still given today.

He said: "You have to learn to sort of shut the back of the mind, but with the media coverage, the anniversaries, it will never really go away."

"These kids were 10 years old, sitting in that room it was hard to grasp that the boys could have caused these injuries. You just don't think a 10-year-old can do that."

"There is no doubt they knew what they were doing that day, they set out to kill someone, to kill a little boy," added Mr Roberts.

"The injuries they caused to James were horrific, and they tried to make it look like an accident by putting his body on a railway track, that is why they knew what they were doing."

Lawyers acting for the killers have suggested that it should not have gone to trial, and that the age of criminality in the UK, which currently stands at 10, should be increased.

The Llanrhedr detective disagrees, and believes a flaw in the whole ordeal was that Thompson and Venables never served time in an adult prison.

Mr Roberts added: "I think the age of criminality is correct, it doesn't need to go up. Children would manipulate it and take advantage of it."

"They were evil little children, and one thing

I think should have happened that didn't is, that they should have served time in adult prison. They were still juveniles when they were released, but they should have served time with adults."

The 25th anniversary came in the same week that Venables was again sent back to prison for 40 months for having a number of indecent images of children.

Mr Roberts said: "It doesn't surprise me we never heard from Thompson. He was calm, he lied and we could pick up on it, but he was calm, street smart."

"You could tell when he lied because he shuffled his feet under the table."

"Venables was hyperactive, I only met him once as I dealt with Thompson."

# Sharp increase in level of violent offences reported

### Report by Deborah Hardiman

VIOLENCE and sex offences have seen a sharp increase in the region – as overall crime rose by 13 per cent.

Knife crime and robbery also increased in the year up to September 2017 compared with the previous year, the Office for National Statistics said.

In the West Mercia area which covers Shropshire, there were 85,433 crimes compared to 75,633 in the previous period.

There was a 16 per cent rise in violent offences and a 23 per cent increase in recorded sexual offences.

There were 15 murders in the region which includes Worcestershire and Herefordshire; the same as in 2016.

West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion said the figures were in line with the national picture – and that he was "reassured" more people were coming forward to record crime.

### Efficiently

He said: "I will continue to ensure that West Mercia Police is working efficiently and effectively to tackle existing and emerging demand, in order to protect our communities.

"I am reassured to see recorded crime is on the increase as it shows the improved confidence our communities have in the police.

"But there is still much more to do. Through my ongoing work around reform, the police are in a better position to respond to demand and address the needs of the public.

"This will continue as I build on what has already been achieved through further investments in technology, closer partnership working such as the proposed changes around fire governance and through grant investments to further understand and tackle the root causes of crime." The Office for National Statistics figures for recorded crime show a dramatic rise in some offences. West Mercia Police has seen a 55 per cent increase in reports of domestic burglaries, according the ONS. The region has seen a 13 per cent rise in overall offences handled to 85,433 offences with harassment and stalking up 24 per cent and public order offences up 15 per cent in the year to September 2017.

Policing Minister Nick Hurd insists that traditional crime has fallen by 40 per cent and also show the most common experienced offences of fraud and computer misuse has reduced by 15 per cent in the past year.

### Fundraiser Tom hits his amazing £20,000 target



From left, Tom Evans, India Whalley, Louise Aubrey, Poppy Polden and Alice Williams at the cheque presentation

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD Tom Evans, from Oswestry School, has raised £20,473 for Cancer Research in just 19 months.

Tom started raising money in April 2016 after his grandmother was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

The experience spurred Tom to do something special as a thank you to the medical profession for providing so much care. He initially set out to raise £5,000 for the charity, but with dona-

tions coming in thick and fast Tom decided to increase his target dramatically to £20,000.

Fundraising began in May 2016 at the first agricultural show in Builth Wells. Here, at the Royal Welsh Spring Festival, Tom showed his Kerry Hill sheep and also took along his pink Cancer Research sheep. Along with filming for a BBC2 Wales documentary about Tom and his sheep for the Royal Welsh 2016 programme, he was also filmed by Midlands TV at Burwarton

show which focussed on his fundraising efforts with the Cancer Research pink sheep.

To support Tom in his efforts, since September 2017 Oswestry School directed all its fundraising activities towards helping Tom achieve his £20,000 goal. Proceeds from the school's annual Christmas Enterprise Fair and a home clothes day raised £1,808. Louise Aubrey, a representative from Cancer Research, visited Oswestry School to accept the cheque.

# Plans for 600 homes spark fears of gridlocked traffic

PART of Oswestry could become gridlocked if plans for up to 600 new homes go ahead, it has been claimed.

The Oswestry sustainable urban extension had good news recently as the government announced a grant of £9.3 million to help unlock the land.

The funding will be used to improve roundabouts on the Oswestry bypass and build a new traffic island on Shrewsbury Road leading into the parcel of land.

However, people living in eastern Oswestry

say that will not help the residential roads close to the new homes deal with the traffic.

Susan Steward lives just off Middleton Road which she says will become one of the main routes into the town centre from the new houses. She is also worried that Aston Way will be used along with Cabin Lane to travel north.

She said: "These are narrow local roads and, if Highways England was concerned about the flow onto the A5, how much worse is it going to be for local residents?"

She said a particular pinch point was where

Middleton Road met Cabin Lane. "Middleton Road only has pavement on one side for a lot of its length and it is very narrow where it meets Cabin Lane," she said.

Cars emerging from the junction will be a danger to local people who walk to shop at the Co-op there.

In addition there is no access from Cabin Lane into Middleton Road at that point, meaning that the assumed 950 cars suggested in the documents, would use the next access point down Prince Charles Road when coming from

that side of the town. That road is already too crowded and too narrow for the amount of traffic that uses it."

Another resident, Peter Avery, has written to the planning authority saying Middleton Road was single track in places while Aston Way was on a completed housing estate used by pedestrians, school children, dog walkers and many other people.

"Buses cannot pass each other without going on the pavement in Aston Way and there are cars parked there day and night," he said.

# PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY  
GUIDE TO HOME  
BUYING AND  
LETTING

## Large Victorian traditional home has five bedrooms

A large Victorian traditional terraced property with five bedrooms and three floors, 14 Queens Road, Oswestry is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £220,000.

With gas central heating and double glazing, its accommodation briefly comprises a porch and entrance hall, a separate lounge and dining room, cellars and rear garden, a kitchen that requires re-fitting and a bathroom and a shower room.

Features include original mosaic tiles and skirting boards in the porch and entrance hall and two of the five bedrooms have cast iron fireplaces.

In more detail the recessed porch still has its original mosaic floor tiles. The through entrance hall has original skirting boards, architraves and doors and a staircase off to the first floor. A traditional fireplace is a feature in the lounge, and there is a bay window. The dining room has a deep inset fireplace in exposed brick with a cast iron wood burning stove and built-in pine alcove cupboards.

The kitchen is only partially fitted and requires repair or replacement. There is a wall mounted gas boiler, exit door and a window. There is a good dry cellar with steps down and a concrete floor. On the first floor is a split level landing with a galleried balustrade. Bedroom one has a period cast iron fire surround and a window to the front. Bedroom two has a period cast iron fire surround and a window to the rear. Bedroom three is positioned to the front.

The bathroom has a suite comprising of a bath with an electric shower over, a wash hand basin, WC, an airing cupboard and a window to the rear. On this floor is a shower room with a tiled shower cubicle with a glass screen and an electric shower, hand basin, WC and a window to the side. The second floor landing has a galleried balustrade and access to eaves storage space. Here bedroom four has a window to the rear and bedroom five overlooks the frontage of the property.

Outside, to the front is a wall leading to a small lawned garden and a pathway to the front door.

### KEY FEATURES

Large period detached

Five bedrooms

Three floors

Cellars & rear garden

Kitchen in need of re-fitting



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## Property sits in a most attractive rural location

**WYKEY, RUYTON-XI-TOWNS**  
£525,000

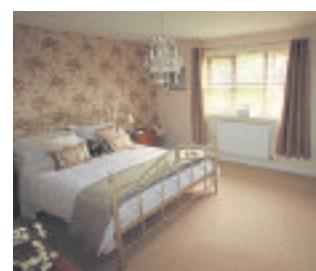
Stone House occupies a most attractive rural location on the outskirts of the small hamlet of Wykey approximately one mile from Ruyton-Xi-Towns with its local facilities.

The property, understood to date back to the early 19th century, is constructed of sandstone and part rendered under a slated roof. It has a garden and approximately three and a half acres of land.

The property is for sale through JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £525,000. Accommodation comprises an entrance lobby, sitting room, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, inner hallway, study/bedroom, rear entrance and shower room.

There are four bedrooms and a bathroom.

Contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



**Property is spacious and in much sought after area**

**ST MARTINS**  
£369,950 <<<

A desirable and spacious five bedroom detached family home, Inch Murrin in St Martins, is in a much sought after area.

It is on the market through Town and Country for £369,950 and there is no chain. Local part exchange would be considered. The property is a magnificent family residence which has been built to a high specification throughout and benefits from entrance hall, cloakroom, office/sitting room, lounge, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, two master bedrooms with en-suite and a further three bedrooms and family bathroom.

Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate this beautiful property.

For more details contact Town and Country on 01691 679631.

# J.J. DELL & Co.

CHARTERED SURVEYORS

**WHITTINGTON**

- Three Bed Semi-Detached Village Cottage
- Quiet Road Location
- GFCH & DG
- Kitchen And Utility
- Dining Room And Sitting Room
- Sun Room
- Bathroom And Shower Room
- Ample Car Parking.
- Walled Garden
- Award Winning Side/Rear Garden
- EPC Band - E
- JD977

GUIDE PRICE £275,000

**WEST FELTON**

- Attractive Detached Country Cottage
- Quiet Country Lane Location
- Kitchen
- Cloakroom And Study
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Three Bedrooms
- Sun Room
- Garage And Ample Parking
- Large, Half Acre Plot
- Large South Facing Rear Garden
- EPC Band-F
- JJD927

GUIDE PRICE £280,000

**OSWESTRY**

**NEW PRICE**

- Three Bed Detached Semi-Detached House In Quiet Residential Area
- Within Walking Distance Of Town Centre
- Period Features
- Entrance Hall
- Living Room
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Cloakroom
- Large Garden
- Large Rear Garden
- EPC Band - E
- JJD988

GUIDE PRICE £174,950

**WESTON, NR. OSWESTRY**

- Grade II Listed Semi-Detached Property
- Reception Hall
- Study Area
- Cloakroom
- Lounge
- Modern Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garden
- Parking
- EPC Band-C
- JJD984

GUIDE PRICE £225,000

**LLANMYNECH**

- Attractive Detached Bungalow
- Central Village Location
- OFCH & PVC DG
- Reception Hall
- Staircase
- Kitchen
- Two Conservatories
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Storage And Utility
- Ample Car Parking
- EPC Band - D
- JD990

GUIDE PRICE £159,950

**WYKEY, RUYTON XI TOWNS**

- Early Nineteenth Century Country Property
- In Total Approx. Three And A Half Acres
- GFCH & DG
- Three Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- Kitchen & Utility
- Four BedRooms
- En-Suite & Shower Room
- Outbuildings
- Gardens & Pool
- EPC Band - E
- JJD985

GUIDE PRICE £525,000

**GOBOWEN**

**OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £69,950**

- Close Care Residential Bungalow On Purpose Built Complex
- GFCH & DG
- Open Plan Living/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Enclosed Paved Yard
- Further Overnight Visitor Accommodation Available
- EPC Band - E
- JJD987

**GLYN CEIRIOG**

- Attractive Mid Terraced Property
- Central Village Location
- OCH & PVC DG
- Living Room
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Shower Room
- Walk-In Wardrobe
- Loft Room/Office
- Front And Rear Gardens
- On-Street Parking
- EPC Band - E
- JJD978

£140,000

**GOBOWEN, NR. OSWESTRY**

**NEW PRICE**

- Retirement Bungalow On Purpose Built Complex
- Age 55 Years
- GFCH & DG
- Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Cloakroom
- Two Bedrooms
- New Bathroom/WC Room
- Rear Enclosed Courtyard
- Office
- EPC Band - D
- JD986

GUIDE PRICE £103,000

**TREFONEN, NR. OSWESTRY**

- Spacious Detached House Occupying Attractive Position
- Surrounding Views Towards Shropshire Plain
- Reception Hall
- Three Reception Rooms
- Staircase
- Cloakroom & Study
- Five BedRooms
- Bathroom & En-Suite
- Large Garden Plot
- Double Garage
- Solar Panels
- EPC Band - D
- JJD969

OFFERS INVITED

**NR. OSWESTRY**

- Range Of Attractive Traditional Stone Barns
- Suitable For Re-Development
- Desirable And Picturesque Hamlet Location
- Mains Electricity And Water Available
- JJD989

GUIDE PRICE £425,000

**WESTON, NR. OSWESTRY-TO LET**

- Two Bed. Semi-Detached House
- GFCH & DG
- Reception Hall
- Lounge
- Dining Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Double Garage
- Rent £600 p.m. Deposit £900.
- Agreement £180 inc.
- References Required
- EPC Band - C
- JJD097

RENT £600 PCM



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**AUCTION**

**Telford** For auction Guide Price £75,000 to £85,000  
\*\*TO BE SOLD AT AUCTION ON 22nd FEBRUARY 2018\*\* TWO BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE IN TELFORD.

**Oswestry** Chain Free £79,950  
A TWO BEDROOM MID-TERRACE PROPERTY CLOSE TO THE TOWN CENTRE OF OSWESTRY WITH AMENITIES CLOSE AT HAND.

**NEW**

**Telford** Auction Guide £110,000  
\*\*TO BE SOLD AT AUCTION ON 22nd FEBRUARY 2018\*\* BUILDING PLOT WITH OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION FOR TWO DWELLINGS

**REDUCED**

**Gobowen** £124,950  
NEW BUILD TWO BEDROOM MID TERRACE PROPERTY!!

**REDUCED**

**Ruyton XI Towns** Offers in the region of £124,950  
TWO BEDROOM MID TERRACE COTTAGE, HAVING A LARGE GARDEN AND VIEWS.

**REDUCED**

**Oswestry** Prices from £145,000  
A NEW DEVELOPMENT OF SUPERB, HIGH SPECIFICATION, NEWLY BUILT BUNGALOWS IN THE TOWN CENTRE.

**NEW**

**Oswestry** £145,000  
OFFERED WITH NO CHAIN! TWO BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED BUNGALOW WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF OSWESTRY TOWN CENTRE.

**REDUCED**

**Oswestry** £150,000  
A DELIGHTFUL AND SPACIOUS VICTORIAN THREE BEDROOM MID-TERRACE PROPERTY.

**NEW**

**Llanrhaeadr Y M** Offers in the region of £155,000  
A DETACHED COTTAGE WITH TWO BEDROOMS IN THE HEART OF A TRADITIONAL VILLAGE.

**REDUCED**

**Oswestry** £165,000  
STUNNING, TOP CLASS BUNGALOWS WITHIN A COUPLE OF MINUTES FLAT WALK OF THE TOWN CENTRE.

**NEW**

**Park Hall** Offers in the region of £184,950  
A THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED FAMILY HOME ON A GOOD SIZED PLOT IN A SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION.

**REDUCED**

**Llanymynech** Offers in the region of £210,000  
IMMACULATE THREE BEDROOM DETACHED PROPERTY SITUATED IN THE POPULAR VILLAGE LOCATION OF LLANYMYNECH, THE PROPERTY HAS ALL LOCAL FACILITIES CLOSE AT HAND

**NEW**

**Corwen** £299,950  
A CHARMING FIVE BEDROOM DETACHED STONE RESIDENCE, IDEAL FOR FAMILIES OR BED AND BREAKFAST.

**NEW**

**Corwen** £330,000  
A CHARMING FIVE BEDROOM DETACHED STONE RESIDENCE, IDEAL FOR FAMILIES OR BED AND BREAKFAST.

**NEW**

**Maesbury Marsh** £374,950  
SPACIOUS FIVE BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY HOME SITUATED WITHIN A VILLAGE LOCATION WITH SUPERB COUNTRYSIDE VIEWS AND WALKS.

**REDUCED**

**Nantmawr** £460,000  
CHARACTER COTTAGE FULL OF CHARACTER occupying an ELEVATED POSITION SET IN 3/4 OF AN ACRE!



## Detached home enjoys superb rural views

**MOELFRE**  
£595,000

Town and Country Oswestry are delighted to offer to the market Y Dafarn, Moelfre – a highly desirable and attractive four bedroom detached family home with outstanding countryside views and overlooking Moelfre Lake.

It is on the market with no chain and an asking price of £595,000. It is a perfect country retreat away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. The property sits within three acres of fields and gardens.

Accommodation briefly comprises a reception room, living room, shower room, kitchen/breakfast room, laundry, orangery, study, master bedroom with ensuite, three further bedrooms and bathroom.

Contact Town and Country on 01691 679631 for more details.



**Semi-detached home dates from the 1830s**

**KNOCKIN HEATH**  
£220,000 <<<

An attractive semi-detached residence believed to date from the 1830s, 2 Sandstone Cottages, Knockin Heath, Oswestry, is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £220,000.

The property is set in a small rural community with good road links to the county town of Shrewsbury.

The extended ground floor accommodation includes a porch, a lounge, a kitchen/dining room and a shower room. Upstairs there are two bedrooms.

Outside, twin timber gates open off the roadway to the front garden area. There is ample parking and an outbuilding in the rear garden.

For more details about the property and to book a viewing, contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595.

## SALES

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**Guide Price £725,000**



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## SPRING AUCTION

26th April 2018, 2pm, Welshpool Livestock Sales

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**Shop and 3 Bedroom House, Gowbwen**  
£250,000



**20 Marshfields, Maesbury Marsh**  
£119,950

Well appointed retail unit in centre of village. Recently re-furbished sales area affording retail and "Local Plus" Post Office. Business available as a going concern. Adj self-contained 3 bedroom house. Gas C/H, D/glazing. Private enclosed rear yard with vehicular access. Commercial EPC Rating: 103 (E). Residential EPC Rating: 52 (E)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**16 The Stables, High Lea House, Oswestry**  
£100,000

A one bedroom ground floor apartment located within the former grounds of High Lea House, off Llanforda Rise, quiet location convenient for the Town Centre. With gas central heating, double glazing and two car parking spaces. EPC Rating = TBC.

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**64 Penybryn Avenue, Whittington**  
£145,000

Established three bedroom semi-detached house idea for first time buyers or a young family, located on a cul-de-sac in the village just 3 miles from Oswestry Town Centre. Double glazed windows, gas central heating, gardens to front and rear with ample off-road parking to the side. Some updating and improvement work is required. EPC Rating = 52(E)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



**17 The Stables, High Lea House, Oswestry**  
£110,000

One bedroom first floor apartment located within the former grounds of High Lea House, quiet, yet convenient for Town Centre. Gas c/heating, double glazed, two parking spaces. EPC Rating = 53(E).

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

## Residential Properties To Let

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2 Bed 2nd/F Flat, Elect H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC = 32) (£395 dep).....	£295 pcm
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First Floor Apart, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC = 34) (£495 dep).....	£395 pcm
2 Bed Semi-Det House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC = 68) (£570 dep).....	£470 pcm
2 Bed Semi-Det House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets (EPC = 57) (£595 dep).....	£495 pcm
2 Bed Semi-Det House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC = 67) (£595 dep).....	£495 pcm
2 Bed Furnished 2nd/F Flat, Elect/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC = 6) (£800 dep).....	£525 pcm
3 Bed Semi-Det House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC = 74) (£720 dep).....	£620 pcm
LLANYMYNECH	
3 Bed Semi-Det House, Oil C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC= Exempt) (£750 dep).....	£650 pcm
LLANSANTFFRAID	
3 Bed-Det Barn Conversion, Oil C/H, No Pets, (EPC=77) (£695 dep).....	£595 pcm

Fees: Application Fee: £40 Lease Fee: £150

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Oswestry 01691 679595  
Tywyn 01654 710388

Rhayader 01597 739994  
Welshpool 01938 554818  
Aberdyfi (window display)



## Stunning Grade II farmhouse enjoys superb views

**LLANRHAEDR**  
£450,000

Clynog, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant near Oswestry is a stunning Grade II listed farmhouse in an elevated position with outstanding views over the Tanat Valley.

It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £450,000. The property is situated on the outskirts of the picturesque village of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant close to the confluence of the rivers Tanat and Rhaeadr in the stunning Berwyn Mountains and near Pistyll Rhaeadr.

In brief, the property has a reception hall, music room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen/lounge, kitchen, utility room, rear lobby, coal house, gallery landing, a loft storage room, integral garage, gun room, five first floor bedrooms, a family bathroom, five attic rooms, large gardens and an orchard/paddock.



Originally forming part of the Wynnstan Estate, the property has an attractive 19th century frontage with an earlier farmhouse now serving as its rear wing. The property has remained in the current owner's family for over 100 years and this sale therefore offers a unique opportunity to purchase one of the area's most historic homes.

Clynog is approached over a well-maintained driveway which is owned by the property with original iron carriage and walking gates leading onto the courtyard with adjoining lawned area which provides access to the property and ample parking.

The agents have been informed it is Grade II Listed and substantial repairs were made to the roof around seven years ago.

Contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.



**Well located property in hamlet comes with cottage**

**LLANGEDWYN**  
£229,950      >>>

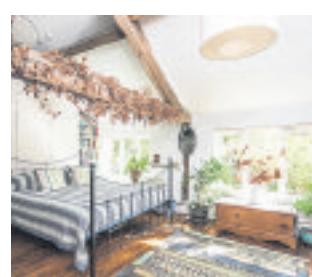
Well located in the small hamlet of Pentre Felin in the Tanat Valley, 2 Glanrafon Cottages, Pentre Felin, Llangedwyn, comes with an attached single bedroom cottage subject to a protected tenancy, known as Number 1.

Coming with good sized gardens, a range of detached outbuildings and having scope for improvement, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £229,950.

The main drive approach off the access lane passes by a range of brick/stone and slate roofed detached stores providing ample storage.

A small section is included with No1 Glanrafon Cottages, and is therefore subject to the protected tenancy status.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more details about the property and to arrange a viewing.



**Historic mill still retains many of its endearing features**

**ABERBECHAN**  
£345,000      <<<

Totally flexible accommodation and hugely authentic credentials are among the endearing features of Minnafren Mill in Aberbechan.

For sale through Balfours at offers over £345,000, the property sits some seven miles from Montgomery and is within easy reach of Welshpool and Shrewsbury. Minnafren Mill comprises a black and white timbered two-bedroomed cottage, together with an adjoining two-bedroomed barn conversion with a self-contained annexe.

Dating from the early 17th century, this black and white half-timbered property became a fulling mill in the 19th century, utilising the Bechan brook and adjacent canal for the manufacture and transport of goods. Today the waterways simply add an additional layer of rural idyll and charm.

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.

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Ellesmere, SY12 0EP  
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01978 860346  
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llangollen@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

### Chirk

01691 772443  
2 Church Street, Chirk,  
Wrexham, LL14 5HA  
chirk@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

**NEW**

**Whittington Road  
Gobowen**
**£159,995**

- A spacious 2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow
  - Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room
  - Shower Room and 2 Bedrooms
  - An enclosed garden mainly laid to lawn
- Driveway to the side
  - Gas Fired Central Heating and UPVC D/G
  - EPC Rating D (62)
  - NO CHAIN

**NEW**

**Building Plot  
Gobowen**
**Ellesmere**

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Old Town Hall, The Square,  
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**Wrexham**

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**Llangollen**

01978 860346  
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llangollen@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

**Chirk**

01691 772443  
2 Church Street, Chirk,  
Wrexham, LL14 5HA  
chirk@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

**Building Plot  
Gobowen**
**£50,000**

- An excellent residential development opportunity located in the popular village of Gobowen extending to 0.12 acres (0.04 ha) or thereabouts with outline planning permission for the erection of one detached dwelling.
- The village is also ideally located for access onto the A5/A483 trunk roads providing direct links to the larger towns of Chirk, Llangollen, Wrexham, Shrewsbury and the City of Chester.

**NEW**

**Whittington Road  
Gobowen**
**£114,995**

- 2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow
- The property requires modernisation throughout
- Still retains host to a range of original features
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Pantry
- Bathroom, separate WC and 2 Double Bedrooms
- An enclosed garden mainly laid to lawn.
- Storage heaters and UPVC double glazing throughout
- EPC Rating F (27)
- NO CHAIN

**Hillside  
Oswestry**

01691 772443  
2 Church Street, Chirk,  
Wrexham, LL14 5HA  
chirk@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

**Hillside  
Oswestry**

- A rare opportunity to purchase a 3 bedroom semi-detached house
- The property requires modernization throughout
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge
- Kitchen and Dining Room

**NEW**

**Ellesmere Road,  
St Martins**
**£149,995**

- NO CHAIN
  - Spacious 3 bed end of terrace property
  - Ent. Porch, Hall, Kitchen, Living Rm
  - Dining Rm, Rear Porch & Conservatory
- 3 good sized beds & Shower Rm
  - Generous size plot offering a wide range of uses.
  - Driveway & single garage to side
  - Open C/H and uPVC double Glazing, EPC Rating F (30)

**Maedow Dale  
Llanymynech**
**£249,950**

- A small residential development on the edge of the popular village of Llanymynech.
- A spacious 4 bedroom detached house with a garage
  - Open plan Lounge/Kitchen, Utility, Cloakroom
  - 4 Bedrooms (master en-suite) & Family Bathroom
  - Gas central heating and double glazing
  - All properties will be completed to the highest specification
  - Come with the benefit of a 10 year warranty

**NEW**

**Upper Brook Street  
Oswestry**
**£104,995**

- NO CHAIN
  - A well presented two bedroom mid terraced property
  - Situated on the fringe of the town centre.
  - Lounge, Kitchen,
  - Two Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Rear Garden with Shed
  - Gas Fired Central Heating and Double Glazing
  - An Ideal First Time or Investment Purchase.

**Regent Court  
Oswestry**

01691 772443  
2 Church Street, Chirk,  
Wrexham, LL14 5HA  
chirk@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

**Regent Court  
Oswestry**

- Well appointed 1/2 Bedroom First Floor Apartment in Regent Court
- A purpose built retirement complex with modern amenities within the town centre
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Area/ Bed 2
- Kitchen, Bedroom and Bathroom
- 24 hour resident secretary facility

**NEW**

**Llansantffraid**
**£279,950**

- NO CHAIN
- A traditional 3 bedroom detached black and white stone cottage
- Set on the outskirts of the popular village of Llansantffraid
- Half an acre of land and is surrounded by open countryside
- Entrance Hall, Kitchen/Dining Area,
- Living/Dining Room
- Conservatory, Sitting/Family Room, Garden Room and Shower Room
- 3 Bedrooms and a Family Bathroom
- Large gardens with a raised decking area, large driveway
- Summerhouse and double garage
- EPC Rating G

**Hampton Road  
Oswestry**
**£340,000**

- A rare opportunity purchase a character 4/5 Bedroom Detached House.
- Situated in one of Oswestry's premier locations on the outskirts of the town
  - Retaining a host of period features throughout including
  - Mosaic tiled flooring, fireplaces and picture rails
  - Entrance Lobby, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory
  - Kitchen/Breakfast Room and Shower Room
  - 4/5 excellent Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
  - Ample off road parking and well maintained rear garden

**NEW**

**Rowan Close  
Gobowen**
**£159,995**

- An well appointed 2 Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow
- Porch, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory
- 2 Bedrooms and Shower Room

- Well maintained front and rear garden
- Off road parking
- Gas C/H and hardwood D/G
- EPC Rating D (65)

**Building Plot  
Chirk**

- A residential plot located in the picturesque village of Chirk Bank extending to 0.04 acres or thereabouts with outline planning permission for the erection of one detached dwelling
- The site is located within walking distance of the Shropshire Union Canal and the Chirk Aqueduct

**NEW**

**Trefonen Road  
Morda**
**£270,000**

- An immaculately presented 3 bedroom detached family home
- Set on the edge of the popular village of Morda
- Outstanding views to the rear over open countryside.
- The property has been extended and tastefully renovated throughout
- Entrance Hall, Shower Room/Utility, Kitchen/Diner, Lounge, Family Room, 3 BedRooms, Family Bathroom
- An enclosed lawn area, with patio providing an outdoor seating area.
- Completely newly fitted kitchen.
- Driveway leading to Double Garage.
- Gas C/H and UPVC Double Glazed windows

**Twmpath Lane  
Gobowen**
**£330,000**

- FOR SALE BY ONLINE AUCTION  
DEADLINE TUESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY  
WITHDRAWN
- An interesting investment/development opportunity comprising of a row of four, 2 bedroom terrace houses
- The four cottages sit on a generous size plot (approx. 0.32 acre)
- Offering ample off road parking and generous front gardens
- The cottages offer spacious living accommodation each comprising;
- Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Gas central heating and UPVC D/G throughout all of cottages.

**NEW**

**Llanrhedr Ym Mochnant**
**£450,000**

- A stunning Grade II Listed Farmhouse
- Situated in an elevated position with outstanding views over the Tanat Valley.
- Reception Hall; Music Room; Sitting Room; Dining Room; Kitchen; Utility
- Room; Rear Lobby; Pantry
- Garage; Gallery Landing; Loft Store; Integral Garage
- Sun Room; Cellar; 5 First Floor Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom; 5 Attic Rooms
- Large Gardens; Orchard/Paddock.

**Abraham Court  
Oswestry**

- This beautifully appointed ground floor purpose built apartment
- Home Manager with Careline backup ensuring help 24 hours a day
- Camera controlled entry phone system
- Sealed unit D/G & night storage heating
- Resident's lounge & Guest suite with en-suite facilities

**NEW**

**Morda Road  
Oswestry**
**£325,000**

- A recently modernised 3 Bedroom Detached Home
- lovely outlook across Oswestry Cricket Ground, perfect for cricket lovers.
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Kitchen, Breakfast Area, Dining Room and Sun Room
- 3 good sized Bedrooms and Family Bathroom.
- Within walking distance of the Market Town of Oswestry.
- Completely newly fitted kitchen.
- Driveway leading to Double Garage.
- Gas C/H and UPVC Double Glazed windows

**Morda Road  
Oswestry**
**£375,000**

- 2nd Bedroom with En-suite, 2 further Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- plot of 1/3 acre with front and rear gardens
- Orchard/vegetable patch, poly-tunnel and patio areas
- Driveway & Double garage with workshop.
- Lounge, Dining Room, Master Bedroom with En-suite

**NEW**

**Hampton Rise  
Oswestry**
**£325,000**

- A rare opportunity to purchase a 3 Bedroom Detached House
- Situated within a desirable established residential location
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Office, Kitchen/Diner
- Lounge, Dining Room, Master Bedroom with En-suite
- 3 Bedrooms and a Family Bathroom.
- Excellent plot with mature front and rear gardens
- Driveway and single garage
- Oil Central heating & Double glazing
- EPC Rating D (60)
- NO CHAIN

**Minshall Place**

- NO CHAIN
- Spacious and well maintained
- Leasehold 2 Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms and Bathrooms.
- Rear garden laid mainly to lawn

## 26 Service to take place in church for Edna, 90

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, February 15, 2018

A WELL-known Oswestry woman, who was involved in many local groups, has died aged 90.

Edna Scott was an Oswestry resident for almost half of her life. Her memorial service will be at St Oswald's Church on Monday at 3pm, preceded by cremation in Shrewsbury.

Born in Birmingham, she first arrived in the town in 1960, when her husband Graham became district inspector at Oswestry Tax Office, living on White Minster.

He died in 1988. They had children, Alison and Gerald.

The family left the town in 1968 when Mr Scott was transferred to London, but chose to retire back to Oswestry in 1987, living on Llanford Mead.

Mrs Scott belonged to Oswestry Business and Professional Women's Guild and Oswestry Civic Society.

She worshipped at St Oswald's and was appointed a governor at Beech Grove Primary.

She died at a nursing home from a chest infection, just two weeks after celebrating her 90th birthday.

She leaves her daughter Alison, who works in publishing in London, son Ged, a former Shrewsbury Town reporter on the Shropshire Star, son-in-law Neil, daughter-in-law Helen and seven grandchildren.

## Progress is made on work to fix barriers

CONTRACTORS are two weeks into major works to replace safety barriers on a bridge near Oswestry after they were damaged in a crash.

A section of the A5, between Halton and Gledrid roundabouts at Chirk, has been closed off to allow the repairs to be carried out safely. Temporary barriers have been in place since June last year when a car, involved in a crash with a lorry, came perilously close to plunging hundreds of feet off the bridge into the River Ceiriog below.

Contractor the North and Mid Wales Trunk Road Agency said the width of the road had been narrowed and there was also a 40mph limit in place.

There will also be a series of overnight road closures with traffic diverted through the town of Chirk from 8pm to 6am.

Closures will take place on Sunday this weekend and on March 20.

Abnormal loads will need to be escorted across the bridge during the roadworks, which are expected to finish on March 21.

The work was due to be carried out last year but contractors were called to London following a spate of terror attacks to create barriers.

Last month, Welsh Assembly Highways minister Ken Skates pledged to look at improvements to the road.

## Schools warned over 'excuses'

A GROUP of schools have been told council chiefs will "not accept a constant parade of excuses" over their budget problems,

Powys County Council has 15 schools currently running with unlicensed budgets – those not approved by the council.

At a cabinet meeting councillors warned that officers will intervene if the schools do not put forward properly costed budgets for 2018/19.

Portfolio holder for education, Councillor Myfanwy Alexander, said the council was working on drawing up a funding formula for schools that took into account the differences between each one.

"There are challenges that schools are facing including sustainability and curriculum development and the move to getting funding through grants which makes it difficult to budget," she said.

However, she said it was imperative schools ensured budgets are in order in time for the May 1 deadline.

"Certain schools are better at budgets than others and we will not accept a constant parade of excuses," Ms Alexander added.

"There will be timely intervention to deal with those who are not dealing with the difficult problems of curriculum changes and staffing."

# Increase in deaths in county sees added delays for families planning cremations

Report by Dayna Farrington

AN increase in deaths in Shropshire has seen added delays for families waiting to have their loved ones cremated in the county.

This follows initial delays last month after a serious breakdown at the busy Emstrey Crematorium in Shrewsbury, which cut the number of cremations taking place there, while repair work was also underway at the facility in Telford.

The company which operates both sites, Dignity, was forced to cut the number of cremations taking place at Telford Crematorium for two weeks while the work was under way, while those who wanted to use the Shrewsbury facility faced an additional week of delays.

Telford Crematorium is now fully operational, with services available in the last two

weeks of February, while Emstrey has a small number of services available from next week.

John Adams, who is Shropshire branch chairman of the National Association of Funeral Directors, said an increase in deaths has put further pressure on crematoriums, and that he hopes things will return to normal by mid-February. Dignity spokesman, Stuart Cox, said January and February are traditionally the busiest times for crematoria.

Mr Adams, of Perry and Phillips Funeral Directors in Bridgnorth, said: "We are looking at three weeks of delays for cremations. There has been an increase in deaths nationally un-

fortunately, including in Shropshire, which has put further pressure on crematoriums.

"I personally think by the middle of February at Telford Crematorium and Shrewsbury's Emstrey Crematorium we will see things back to normal – I hope that's the case.

Dignity has done the repair works at both sites – once the equipment has been replaced there, it will stand for a long time. Both Telford and Shrewsbury are well-run facilities and the staff really care about what they are doing and we support them.

"We are all working together for the families. Care for families remains the highest in Shropshire. We are all working together to continue the service.

"Despite the delays, we remain positive and

hope it will be sorted soon." Mr Cox added: "Following the recent maintenance of equipment, Telford Crematorium is now fully operational.

"Services are available on February 21 and 22, and during the week commencing February 26. There are a small number of services available at Emstrey Crematorium during the week commencing February 19."

"In the UK, the average time between date of death and the day of the funeral is 17 days at any time of year. This period can increase during January and February which are traditionally the busiest times for crematoria. At present, many crematoria are very busy and there has been a notable increase in the death rate in some regions."

# Powerful plea is made for electric car charging points

Report by Sue Austin

A WELSHPOOL councillor is asking Powys County Council to set up a network of electric charging points at its car parks – as councillors in Oswestry stalled plans for something similar in their town.

Graham Breeze, Independent County Councillor for Welshpool's Llanerchydol ward and a motoring journalist for over 40 years, has urged Powys County Council to recognise the trend for electrifying motoring.

He has written to Liam Fitzpatrick, the council's portfolio holder for highways, calling for an investigation to be carried out into establishing electric car charging points at all the county's main car parks.

"This is a real opportunity for Powys to be at the forefront of the trend to electrify motoring which will eventually signal the end of the internal combustion engine," Cllr Breeze said.

### Phase

"The world's major car manufacturers are totally committed to electrification. Volvo will electrify its entire vehicle line by 2019 with five-all-electric models set to roll-out from 2019 to 2021 with a target of a million sales by 2025.

"General Motors, Ford, Toyota, Mazda, Daimler, Mercedes-Benz, Renault, Nissan, Mitsubishi, Jaguar/Land Rover, Volkswagen, Audi, Seat and Skoda have all announced plans to phase out petrol and diesel power.

"Make no mistake, electric cars are coming to every road in the immediate future and if we want to continue attracting visitors to our towns we must be ready.

"The county needs an infrastructure of charging points and I see this as an opportunity for the council to make money as well as providing a service which will become essential as the movement grows."

However, in Oswestry, councillors say they want more information before deciding to back plans for electric charging points in their main car park.

Oswestry town and Shropshire Councillor Paul Milner had urged the town council last week to look at schemes for putting points in Central Car Park.

He said they would help to make the town more attractive to visitors.

A report looked at a number of options for putting the points in Central Car Park. Councillors said they would need more details before deciding to go ahead with a scheme.

## Medical equipment will be turned into artwork



Jan Leeson, a medical engineer from Princess Royal Hospital, with Clive Knowles from the British Ironwork Centre

OBSOLETE and scrap hospital equipment from Telford's Princess Royal Hospital has been donated to help build a unique sculpture to mark the 70th year of the NHS.

Staff at the hospital hunted out broken monitors, surgical tools and other items no longer in use to donate to the British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry.

It is collaborating with Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust to create the sculpture which will be unveiled at the trust's annual fun day. Artist Luke Kite will be the man entrusted with building the finished item.

Clive Knowles, chairman of the ironwork centre, said a wonderful collection of weird and wonderful items had been found in both hospitals. "Old pieces of equipment that can no longer be used or repaired include obsolete blood pressure monitors, parts of hospital beds, surgical hands, microscopes, a former anaesthetic machine, a broken dialysis machine and wheelchairs," he said.

"We now have to decide what to create."

Members of the public are being urged to come up with design ideas for the sculpture. Anyone with ideas should contact the trust on

line at [www.sath.nhs.uk/nhs70](http://www.sath.nhs.uk/nhs70) before February 16. Every suggestion will be discussed by a panel from SaTH and the British Ironwork Centre before a final design is created and unveiled at the fun day.

It will be held on July 5 at the Shropshire Education Centre at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. Mr Knowles said: "A couple of years ago I was diagnosed with cancer, and although I have now put that behind me it has given me great empathy with the NHS and with hospitals generally. Luke is an extremely talented artist from Shropshire."

# Man sent to prison for 17 months for drunken attack

AN enraged man made repeated threats to his ex-partner and her friends before drunkenly attacking her father and a friend with a fence panel.

Nathan Parish was drunk when he turned up at the home of his former partner and began to stalk out, with one man being hit on the head.

He was restrained and spat at one man before being arrested.

At Shrewsbury Crown Court, Parish, 26, of Grove Court, Ruyton-XI-Towns near Oswestry, was sentenced to 17 months in prison by Judge

Anthony Lowe for offences including possessing an offensive weapon, criminal damage, and assault.

The prosecution decided not to press ahead with a charge of affray, but asked for it to sit on Parish's file.

Prosecutor Jamie Scott said Parish was in a relationship from February 2017 to October 2017.

After breaking up, he harassed his former girlfriend with a series of messages, and he pleaded guilty to an harassment charge at an

earlier court appearance. In the messages he said if she was in a relationship with someone else, he was going to kill them.

Following this he blocked his number, and he then began contacting her neighbour, and making further threats to his former girlfriend, her neighbour and her neighbour's partner.

These threats continued, and he also began sending offensive messages to his former partner's sister.

His victim called her father and he went round to the home where Parish was staying,

to speak to the owner. An argument ensued and Parish later went into the area where his former partner lives.

He was spotted by a neighbour and a group of people came out of their homes, and Parish, who had a fence panel in his hand, confronted them.

Danny Smith, for Parish, said his client had problems with cocaine and alcohol. He said since he has been in custody, he has been off substances and has been working to repair bikes in the prison workshop.

# The Ticket

@TheTicket\_Star

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## Come to sunny Llandudno this summer

Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin is organising its annual holiday for older people at the Queen's Hotel, Llandudno from 7-14 July 2018. The hotel is on the seafront, near to shops and cafes and is easily accessible.

This holiday is for older people who find it hard to go on holiday independently and any older person living in Shropshire may apply. (Suitable for wheelchair users but you must provide your own carer).

Accommodation	£400
Transport	£20
Daily trips	£1 per excursion

A limited amount of financial assistance may be available.

Terms and conditions apply -for full details and application forms please get in touch,  
**Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin**  
3 Mardol Gardens, Shrewsbury SY1 1PR  
t 01743 233 123  
e [enquiries@ageukstw.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ageukstw.org.uk)

Application forms will be sent out on 23 February to all who have requested them.



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# I'll share secrets of my showbiz life

**A**ussie heartthrob Jason Donovan won't pull any punches when he lines up at Birmingham Town Hall on Wednesday to talk about His Amazing Midlife Crisis.

The man who shot to fame in Neighbours, dated Kylie, had the best-selling album of 1989 and thrilled vast West End audiences in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat – before starring on I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here and Strictly Come Dancing – will be starring in his first spoken word show.

Not that fans will be deprived of the hits. Jason will be performing a selection of his biggest songs in an acoustic setting.

And nothing will be off limits when he takes to the stage for the 90-minute show – including his relationships, his former cocaine habit and more.

"I'm really looking forward to doing this tour. It's something new, something I've not done before and something that the fans are looking forward to."

"There'll be music, there'll be stories, there'll be things people have never seen before and there'll be the chance for them to interact. It's a real up-close-and-personal sort of show. I can't wait."

Jason will reflect on his time in Neighbours during the show, chatting about his time as Scott Robinson and explaining how that character still travels with him.

"When we were on the Ten Good Reasons tour, we had a massive show at Hammersmith. There was a lot of expectation with it being the London show. We asked Kylie if she could come and join us but she wasn't around."

"Then, sitting with the crew in catering one night, someone said 'Have you thought about getting a labrador on stage?' They were referencing Bouncer from Neighbours, of course.

"We all laughed and thought it would be a funny idea to introduce someone that was petite and blonde, one of the members of the Neighbours cast – and then Bouncer walks on. So we'd teased everyone that it might be Kylie, but actually Bouncer turned up.

"Finding a dog that looked like Bouncer at the last minute proved difficult. It's not like you can audition a dog. And let me tell you, hiring a dog isn't cheap. Anyway, we booked a Bouncer lookalike.

"And then we got a call on the day of the show to say that Lookalike Bouncer was ill so they were sending an identical Stunt Lookalike Bouncer. Suddenly Bouncer had turned from a meat eating well rounded canine to a slim and petite Jenny Craig lookalike.

"Anyway the dog came on stage WITH its owner which wasn't what I expected, I had thought the dog would wander on and over to me. But it didn't. It forgot it was supposed to be Bouncer and started being a sniffer dog wondering if there were any treats in the stage."

Jason has spent a lifetime in the public eye and has learned to deal with fame. And in Jason Donovan and His Amazing Midlife Crisis he will explain how he's handled it.

"I never got into this business to be famous. It was a by-product of what I do, what I'm passionate about. However, that's not to say I



Too many broken hearts – Jason reveals all about his past

haven't enjoyed most parts of my fame. Look I came from Australia, where it was relatively calm, and then I came here and it was insane.

"I found Joseph particularly challenging because of the workload, being in a theatre and the responsibilities of leading a cast eight shows a week. It was really claustrophobic. But other things happen and you start to not take this whole game too seriously. Today I can deal with it but back then I found the intensity of it all difficult."

Jason will also talk about his rebellious 1990s, when he went off the rails. "The 90s was about rebellion. You

find a lot of famous people rebel against their own image particularly if they feel like they can't even control their own image. I was trying to be cool in the 90s, but in fact I

came to realise there is no such thing as cool, no such thing.

"I had photographers chasing me around the world. It was just mad.

"There were people following me into the toilet to get an autograph."

These days, Jason is happily married with three kids and likes to

*Finding a dog that looked like Bouncer at the last minute proved difficult*

combine work with downtime, so that he can spend time with his family. He'll talk about their importance and the way they help him to keep his feet on the ground.

"As long as the kids are getting tickets to Ed Sheeran, Sam Smith, Beyoncé, Coldplay or Chainsmokers through my contacts, then they're happy. There are some great moments that come about because of doing this. It was incredible meeting Prince William at a Gary Barlow show, for instance.

"And the reaction from Strictly was amazing. I think the kids were embarrassed when I signed up for that – but as soon as I started winning they didn't think it was so bad after all."

● Jason will also take his show to Telford's Oakengates Theatre on May 8 and Stafford's Gatehouse Theatre on May 9.

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Shropshire Star every Friday.

# Pirates ahoy during half term at SVR

Ahoy! There's a whole treasure chest of pirate-themed family fun to be opened at the Severn Valley Railway.

After a short rest for winter maintenance, it will be full steam ahead at the railway this February half-term.

The SVR's fleet of heritage steam locomotives will be buffed and polished, ready to take passengers on adventures along the line.

Families can stop-off and embark on a seafaring journey of adventure at "Buccaneer Bay" – otherwise known as The Engine House Visitor Centre at Highley.

Scurvy seadogs can take part in a pirate trail – a quest to retrieve the lost ancient amulet from the fabled treasure chest of Pirate Pete, following clues located around the many exhibits, from Corsair's Cove to Port Rascal.

Creative youngsters can make their very own pirate hats and eye-patches on the arts and crafts tables, take part in a fun children's quiz and marvel at the intricate Manchester Model Tramway layout – well-behaved shipmates may even get the chance to have a go at controlling the trams themselves.

Children can bring their teddies along to hear some tales as storyteller Jake Evans visits on Tuesday while colourful

capers are on the cards for Thursday next week as Bewdley-based circus entertainer Anthony Arnold arrives.

At Kidderminster, the Coalyard Miniature Railway will be in operation during half-term next week. Rides cost £1 each, and the Kidderminster Railway Museum will be open to explore.

Clare Gibbard, the SVR's marketing and communications manager, said: "We've got a raft of pirate-themed fun heading our way this half-term, coupled with storytelling and circus skills – and, of course, lots of steam trains."

For more information about the SVR and its events or to book tickets, see [www.svr.co.uk](http://www.svr.co.uk) or call 01562 757900.



## Coming soon...

### Find the tribe trail

West Midland Safari Park is set to hold an event in conjunction with the release of new animated film, Early Man.



Famous for family favourites including Shaun the Sheep and Wallace and Gromit, Aardman has released a new prehistoric comedy adventure film.

It will form the basis of the safari park's Find The Tribe Trail.

There will also be a "secret cave" filled with exclusive exhibits from the film sets.

During February half-term next week, the Bewdley attraction will host an interactive trail based on the film.

Guests will follow a series of clues in the hope of finding Dug's tribe.

Once completed, there will be an exclusive model making kit as a prize for the successful explorers.

The prehistoric adventure doesn't end there.

There will also be an opportunity to get up close to some of the creatures from the film, in a unique display of some of the models in the park's Early Man Secret Cave.

The park will also hold model making workshops, enabling guests to learn how to make one of the characters from the film.

The 'Find the Tribe' Trail will run on weekends, and then daily for half-term.

### Enjoy a train trip

Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway is staging winter warmer trains in February to coincide with the school half term holidays.



Trains will be based at the railway's Llanfair Caereinion headquarters, and operate return services – steam hauled and with all carriages heated – to the mid-point station of Castle Caereinion, a distance of just over four miles.

The trains will re-create the first decade of services after the W&LLR was reopened as a heritage railway in 1963, and all trains terminated at Castle Caereinion. On this occasion all trains will operate from Llanfair as parking is not possible at Castle Caereinion.

Return trips, lasting approximately one hour, will depart at 11am, 12.45pm and 2.30pm on Saturday and Sunday this weekend.

They will also run on Wednesday and Thursday next week.

And they will run on the weekend of February 24 and 25.

General manager Charles Spencer said: "We have never run passenger services in February before but it is a great time to take a ride.

"The lack of leaves on the trees opens up the views, and the Bann Valley looks very different at this time of year."

Following the February trains, the W&LLR will reopen for services over the full length of the line on Saturday, March 24.

More details are available at [www.wllr.org.uk](http://www.wllr.org.uk)

### Craig to play DJ set

Actor, TV host and radio presenter Craig Charles will be returning to Shrewsbury to play a DJ set at a music venue, bosses have announced.



After a sell-out show last

May and huge demand for his return, Charles of Red Dwarf, Robot Wars, The Gadget Show and Coronation Street fame will be performing a live DJ slot at a Planet of the Breaks show at the Buttermarket Cellars in Shrewsbury on February 23.

Craig will also be joined by local funk and soul DJ Sonny Woods, with more special guests to be announced. Tickets are available now online.

Craig will be performing as part of a series of big shows for Planet of the Breaks in 2018, whose guest acts over the years have included the likes of Grandmaster Flash, Groove Armada, Stereo MCs and the Fun Lovin' Criminals.

For more information about the night and to book tickets go to [thebuttermarket.co.uk/event/the-craig-charles-funk-soul-club/](http://thebuttermarket.co.uk/event/the-craig-charles-funk-soul-club/).

## NOTICE BOARD

\* WONDERFUL Wildflowers is the name of a new exhibition at the Qube Gallery in Oswestry. The exhibition runs until February 28 and displays the work of Ceri York who said: "This exhibition is a celebration of the diversity of wildflowers we have in wild places. Many of these plants have medicinal properties but their healing properties go beyond their chemistry. Being in touch with nature through an interest in these characterful plants can have healing benefits for the mind as well as the spirit. The exhibition consists of 15 boldly colourful pieces that are painted to bring joy. My art has evolved from regular sketching as a child through rediscovering a love of colour

during a recovery from a health issue to a realisation of an adventurous spirit finding new techniques and media to use. I am inspired by the plants and animals of Wales and have always lived near the coast so my inspiration is largely from what I see along the coastal path. In particular I love the variety of wildflowers that can be found. I am intrigued by their many shapes and love to emphasise their colour in my art. I would like to explore my style as intuitive as far as I respond to the subject through my choice of medium, colour and size. I like to explore

the possibilities available to me in the different media and I love getting to know the character of the subjects I paint. My aim as an artist is to draw attention to the beauty 'underfoot' by depicting the ordinary in unusual ways. I have exhibited with the North Wales and Qube Open and have studied illustration with the OCA."

\* AN historical evening of choral music will be performed in a village church. Masters of the King's Music, will look at the musical history of the Chapel Royal between the years of 1500 and 1700. It will be performed at Whittington Parish Church by the music group, 'Gentlemen and Scholars' or St Oswald's Parish Church, under the direction of Mike

Donkin, on March 17. The evening will start at 7.30pm and proceeds will go towards the Whittington Music Festival and church expenses. Tickets, £10 are available from Lawrence and Rosie Mortimer, 01691 657986.

\* OSWESTRY Coalition for Peace is sponsoring the screening at Kinokulture Community Cinema, Oswestry on Tuesday, February 27 at 7.30pm of Shadow World, a film which reveals the shocking realities of the global arms trade. The film is based in part on Andrew Feinstein's acclaimed book The Shadow World: Inside the Global Arms Trade. Andrew Feinstein, executive director of Corruption Watch UK, will introduce the film.

# February 17


**Casualty**
*8.20pm*

Ethan plans to deal with surplus patients by sending them to a Clinical Decisions Unit, but this fails to fool the Rage in Resus blogger, who continues to expose the ED's faults.


**Young Frankenstein**
*11.15pm*

The grandson of the original Baron rejects his heritage - but cannot resist creating his own monster. Mel Brooks' horror spoof, with Gene Wilder, Marty Feldman and Madeline Kahn.


**Take Me Out**
*6.30pm*

A rower from Nottingham, a barman from Luton, a lifeguard from London and a football fan from Ipswich enter the love lift. With Paddy McGuinness. Last in the series.


**Penelope Keith's Coastal Villages**
*7pm*

New series. In the first episode, Penelope visits the seaside villages of West Sussex and the Isle of Wight. Previously seen on More4.

# saturday


**Football on 5: The Championship**
*9pm*

Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games, including Cardiff City v Middlesbrough, Fulham v Aston Villa and Sunderland v Brentford.

**BBC1**

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
- 10.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Clare Balding presents further coverage of day eight in PyeongChang, South Korea, including the women's skeleton, plus short track speed skating.
- 12.00 Football Focus.** Dan Walker and guests discuss the fifth round of the FA Cup, which got under way with two matches last night, and also review the week's headlines.
- 1.00 BBC News; Weather.**
- 1.15 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Clare Balding and Hazel Irvine present continued coverage of the latest events on day eight in PyeongChang, South Korea, including the women's skeleton, curling and ice hockey.
- 4.30 Final Score.** Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of the classified results and this afternoon's news from the FA Cup, EFL and Scotland.
- 5.25 BBC News.**
- 5.35 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 5.45 And They're Off for Sport Relief.** Martin Roberts, Tyger Drew-Honey, Sharon Davies, Sam Quek and Zoe Lyons all put their athleticism to the test, as Ore Oduba presents one last round of the sporting challenge. As ever, the celebrity contestants are tasked with competing in a series of bizarre races, while members of the public answer general knowledge questions and try to predict which of them will win. Last in the series.
- 6.25 Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong hosts as Jayne Torvill, Clare Balding, Jenny Jones, Amy Williams, Graham Bell, Rhona Howie and more compete in a Winter Olympics-themed edition of the quiz.
- 7.15 All Together Now.** The 100-strong panel of music experts are encouraged to sing along to everything from Pharrell Williams' 'Happy' to the Jackson 5's 'Who's Loving You.'
- 8.20 Casualty.** Ethan plans to deal with surplus patients by sending them to a Clinical Decisions Unit, but this fails to fool the Rage in Resus blogger, who continues to expose the ED's faults.
- 9.10 Troy: Fall of a City.** New series. An encounter between a Trojan herdsman and the queen of Sparta sparks a conflict that brings an empire to its knees. Historical epic, starring Louis Hunter.
- 10.10 BBC News; National Lottery Update.**
- 10.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights.** Action from the latest fifth-round matches, which included Brighton & Hove Albion v Coventry City and West Bromwich Albion v Southampton.
- 11.35 Live at the Apollo.** Adam Hills hosts an evening of stand-up at the Apollo in Hammersmith, London, introducing routines by Andi Osho and Terry Alderton. (R)
- 12.20 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Radzi Chinyanganya presents coverage of the opening events on day nine in PyeongChang, South Korea, which includes the men's slopestyle and giant slalom skiing events.
- 3.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Radzi Chinyanganya presents continued coverage of the opening events on day nine in PyeongChang, South Korea.

**BBC2**

- 6.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Eilidh Barbour presents coverage of the latest events on day eight in PyeongChang, South Korea, which includes curling and ice hockey.
- 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** With guest Stephen Mangan.
- 11.30 The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food.** Tarte-tatin and Italian dumplings using simple ingredients. (R)
- 12.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Clare Balding presents further coverage of day eight in PyeongChang, South Korea, including short track speed skating.
- 1.15 Escape to the Country.** A couple with £875,000 to spend seek a rural home in Dorset. (R)
- 1.45 Trust Me, I'm a Doctor.** Exploring the truth behind so-called superfoods. (R)
- 2.15 FILM: The Third Man (1949).** A writer goes in search of the truth behind a friend's death in post-Second World War Vienna, but is unprepared for what he finds. Thriller, starring Joseph Cotten and Orson Welles.
- 4.00 Flog It! (R)**
- 4.45 Nigel Slater's Middle East.** The writer visits Turkey. (R)
- 5.45 Tom Kerridge: Lose Weight for Good.** Tom creates recipes to help the dieters resist temptation away from home. (R)
- 6.15 Hugh's Wild West.** Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall follows the fortunes of a small buzzard family, and tracks salmon migrating upstream as his wildlife tour takes him to Dartmoor.
- 7.15 Winter Olympics – Today at the Games.** Clare Balding presents highlights of the eighth day's action from the 23rd staging of the Games, which takes place in PyeongChang, South Korea.
- 8.15 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities.** New series. The naturalist continues to explore the secrets behind evolution, this time focusing on the animal kingdom's bizarre hybrids, including the "pizzly bear". Previously seen on W.
- 8.45 Dad's Army.** Mainwaring finds a German pilot trapped on top of the town clock by his parachute, so the platoon attempts a rescue mission. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)
- 9.15 QI XL.** An extended edition in which Bill Bailey, Colin Lanks and Desriree Burch join regular panellist Alan Davies to answer host Sandi Toksvig's questions on the theme "Overseas".
- 10.00 Imagine – Mel Brooks: Unwrapped.** Alan Yentob travels to Hollywood to interview Mel Brooks in the year of his 91st birthday, profiling his extensive career in comedy, and observing him at work and play.
- 11.15 FILM: Young Frankenstein (1974).** The grandson of the original Baron rejects his heritage - but cannot resist creating his own monster. Mel Brooks' horror spoof, with Gene Wilder.
- 12.55 FILM: The Producers (2005).** A washed-up Broadway producer and his neurotic accountant stage a musical tribute to Hitler as a get-rich-quick scheme. Musical comedy, starring Matthew Broderick and Nathan Lane.
- 3.00 Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 3.05 BBC News.**

**ITV**

- 6.00 CITV: Sooty 6.10** The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.35 Dino Dana 6.50** Super 4 **7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story** **7.05 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution**
- 7.30 Scrambled!** Scrambled! Two hours of children's fun.
- 7.35 Scrambled!: The Tom and Jerry Show.** Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
- 7.50 Scrambled!: Fangbone. (R)**
- 8.10 Scrambled!: The Powerpuff Girls. (R)**
- 8.30 Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Doo!** Adventures with the Scooby gang. (R)
- 9.05 Scrambled!: Wishfart. (R)**
- 9.25 ITV News.**
- 9.30 James Martin's Saturday Morning.** The TV chef invites Michael Parkinson and Kenny Atkinson into his own home as he makes fish and chips, parkin and roast lamb, and prepares another dish in Jason Plato's racing car.
- 11.25 The Hungry Sailors.** Dick and James Strawbridge travel to Cremyll in south-east Cornwall, where they help a woman move an enormous pig ark and learn how to make their own cordial. (R)
- 12.25 ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
- 12.30 Dancing on Ice.** As St Valentine's Day approaches, the eight remaining celebrity contestants and their pro-skater partners are challenged to show off romantic routines in Love Week. (R)
- 2.30 Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury.** A trek through the rolling plains of Cheshire. (R)
- 3.00 Celebrity Catchphrase.** Diversity's Ashley Banjo, Benidorm actor Jake Canuso and TV presenter Lorraine Kelly take part in a special celebrity edition of the guessing game-show. (R)
- 4.00 Tipping Point.** Game show, hosted by Ben Shepherd. (R)
- 5.00 The Chase.** Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
- 6.00 ITV News and Weather.**
- 6.20 ITV News Central;** Weather.
- 6.30 Take Me Out.** A rower from Nottingham, a barman from Luton, a lifeguard from London and a football fan from Ipswich enter the love lift. With Paddy McGuinness. Last in the series.
- 8.00 The Voice UK.** Emma Willis hosts the conclusion of the blind auditions phase of the contest, as performers compete for the chance to win one of the final places on the coaches' teams.
- 9.30 Through the Keyhole.** Keith Lemon hosts the game show in which celebrity panellists Paddy McGuinness, Catherine Tyldesley and Chris Kamara are challenged to identify the homes of the rich and famous.
- 10.30 ITV News and Weather.**
- 10.45 FILM: Lethal Weapon 3 (1992).** Detectives Riggs and Murtaugh go on the trail of a former policeman selling impounded weaponry to criminal gang bosses. Action thriller sequel, starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover.
- 12.45 Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00 Babushka.** Game show hosted by Rylan Clark-Neal in which contestants open a set of giant Russian nesting dolls, with some empty and others containing prizes up to £10,000. (R)

**Channel 4**

- 6.05 Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free.** Kirstie Allsopp helps Ferne and Peter furnish their home. (R)
- 6.20 3rd Rock from the Sun.** Dick and Don invest in a timeshare. (R)
- 6.45 3rd Rock from the Sun.** Dick finds the secret of happiness. (R)
- 7.10 The King of Queens.** Carrie becomes close to her neighbour. (R)
- 7.35 The King of Queens.** Doug tries to get out of going to the bank. (R)
- 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Frank shows an interest in Ray's work. (R)
- 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra and Ray make their wills. (R)
- 9.00 Frasier.** The shrink is reunited with his old Cheers gang. (R)
- 9.30 Frasier.** The shrink struggles to reach a new audience. (R)
- 10.00 Frasier.** Roz goes to a family reunion. (R)
- 10.30 The Big Bang Theory.** Penny agrees to a date with Leonard. (R)
- 11.00 The Big Bang Theory.** Sheldon is placed in a difficult position. (R)
- 11.30 The Big Bang Theory.** Leonard gets back together with Leslie Winkle. (R)
- 12.00 The Simpsons.** Homer recalls his musical heyday. (R)
- 12.30 The Simpsons.** Homer becomes a union representative. (R)
- 1.00 The Simpsons.** A prank lands Homer in hospital. (R)
- 1.30 Come Dine with Me.** Four hosts from Bedfordshire compete. (R)
- 2.30 Coast vs Country.** Rose and daughter Caitlin seek advice on a new home. (R)
- 3.35 A Place in the Sun.** Good friends looking for a holiday apartment near Barcelona. (R)
- 4.35 The Secret Life of the Zoo.** The keepers try to bring two feuding sloths closer together. (R)
- 5.35 The Supervet.** A cat needs surgery on its knee after falling from a balcony. (R)
- 6.30 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 Penelope Keith's Coastal Villages.** New series. Penelope heads on a seaside journey around the coastal villages of the UK. In the first episode, she visits the seaside villages of West Sussex and the Isle of Wight. Previously seen on More4.
- 8.00 Britain at Low Tide.** New series. Tori Herridge highlights more of Britain's maritime history via state-of-the-art technology, beginning with an 18th-century shipwreck found off the East Sussex coast.
- 9.00 FILM: Ted 2 (2015).** Premiere. The foul-mouthed talking teddy bear fights a court case for the right to be legally recognised as a person. Comedy sequel, starring Mark Wahlberg and Amanda Seyfried.
- 11.15 FILM: Dracula Untold (2014).** A Romanian knight makes a dangerous supernatural bargain to gain the power to defend his homeland from invaders. Fantasy adventure, starring Luke Evans and Dominic Cooper.
- 12.55 The Last Leg.** Comic review of the significant moments of the past seven days. (R)
- 1.50 Hollyoaks.** Omnibus. The Maaliks receive some shocking news. (R)
- 3.55 Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny.** (R)
- 4.50 Location, Location, Location.** (R)
- 5.45 Superfoods: The Real Story.** (R)

**Channel 5**

- 6.00 Milkshake!** Little Princess 6.10
- 6.20 Wissper 6.20** The Mr Men Show 6.30
- Milkshake! Monkey 6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies 6.40 Moxy 6.45 Simon 6.55 Simon 7.00 Peppa Pig 7.05 Paw Patrol 7.20 Thomas & Friends 7.30 Fireman Sam 7.40 Olly the Little White Van 7.50 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.20 Paw Patrol 8.35 Nella the Princess Knight 8.50 Noddy: Toyland Detective 9.05 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.15 Shimmer and Shine 9.35 Digby Dragon 9.50 Peppa Pig 10.00 Peppa Pig
- 10.05 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R)
- 10.35 Access.**
- 10.40 Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 3.** (R)
- 11.10 Police Interceptors.** Liam and police dog Titan take part in a full-scale manhunt. (R)
- 12.05 Police Interceptors.** Two officers use their Tasers to help arrest a knife-wielding teenager. (R)
- 1.05 The A-Team.** The gang tackles the Mob. (R)
- 2.05 The A-Team.** The Face runs for sheriff. (R)
- 3.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** The agents try to recover more than £12,000 owed by a jeweller. (R)
- 4.05 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** The agents chase up more than £2,000 in unpaid parking fines. (R)
- 5.00 Rich House, Poor House.** Families from Chelmsford and Watford swap homes and budgets for a week. (R)
- 6.00 The Wonderful World of Puppies.** Documentary charting the first few months of a dog's life, following different breeds as they take the first steps on their own unique developmental journey. (R)
- 7.00 Cruising with Jane McDonald.** A Lilliputian lop round the Inner Hebrides puts Jane in touch with her Scottish roots, as with just six other passengers she embarks on what is easily her smallest ever cruise. (R)
- 8.00 The World's Most Luxurious Cruise Ship.** Part two of two. The Seven Seas Explorer's designers rush to choose the luxury fittings and fixtures, before Princess Charlene of Monaco christens the vessel. (R)
- 8.55 5 News Weekend.**
- 9.00 Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games, including Cardiff City v Middlesbrough, Fulham v Aston Villa and Sunderland v Brentford.
- 10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Milton Keynes Dons v Charlton Athletic and Barnet v Accrington Stanley.
- 10.30 FILM: There's Something About Mary (1998).** A lovesick man hires a seedy detective to track down his high-school sweetheart - but discovers he has many rivals for her affections. Comedy, starring Cameron Diaz and Ben Stiller.
- 12.40 SuperCasino.**
- GPs: Behind Closed Doors.** (R)
- 3.10 Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh.** (R)
- 4.00 Divine Designs.** (R)
- 4.45 House Doctor.** (R)
- 5.10 Divine Designs.** (R)
- 5.35 Wildlife SOS.** (R)

# February 18


**Call the Midwife**
*8pm*

Rumours spread around Poplar that a sailor with smallpox is hiding somewhere in town. Nurse Crane and Dr Turner try to track him down before he causes an outbreak.


**Dragons' Den**
*8pm*

The panel assess the profit-making potential of a combined toothbrush and mobile game controller, a range of Scottish gins, and a device for relieving back pain. Last in the series.


**Dancing on Ice**
*6pm*

Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby preside as the seven remaining pro-celebrity couples compete for a place on next week's show, and Camila Cabello performs her new single.


**Posh Pawn**
*7pm*

James enjoys a tipple from an unusual £75,000 fire engine bar, while memorabilia expert Lawrence is presented with an autograph collection that could be worth £20,000.


**When Comedy Goes Horribly Wrong**
*9pm*

Julian Clary narrates a compilation of mishaps from comedy shows, including a stunt fight that ended badly for Russell Howard.

**BBC1**

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
- 7.55 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights.** Action from the latest fifth-round matches, which included Brighton & Hove Albion v Coventry City and West Bromwich Albion v Southampton. (R)
- 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.**
- 10.00 The Big Questions.** Nicky Campbell presents moral and religious discussions on topical issues from Leicester Grammar School.
- 11.00 Homes Under the Hammer.** Dion Dublin visits a large Victorian terrace house in south-east London, while Martin Roberts is in Derbyshire, to discover how a father and daughter plan to renovate a flat. (R)
- 12.00 BBC News; Weather.**
- 12.15 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Clare Balding and Hazel Irvine present continuing coverage of day nine in PyeongChang, South Korea, including men's curling and bobsleigh.
- 3.35 Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup.** Rochdale v Tottenham Hotspur (Kick-off 4.00pm). Coverage of the fifth-round clash, which takes place at Crown Oil Arena.
- 6.05 BBC News.**
- 6.20 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 6.30 Countryfile.** Matt Baker and Anita Rani present the show from Anglesey, where they go in search of harbour porpoises, investigate the boom in Menai mussels, and meet a squirrel whisperer.
- 7.30 Hold the Sunset.** New series. Comedy, starring Alison Steadman as a retired woman whose dreams for the future are disrupted when her middle-aged son abandons his family and moves back into her house.
- 8.00 Call the Midwife.** Rumours spread around Poplar that a sailor with smallpox is hiding somewhere in town. Nurse Crane and Dr Turner try to track him down before he causes an outbreak. Lucille treats an expectant mother on her own, but soon feels out of her depth when she displays signs of a serious medical condition. Trixie goes to stay with her godmother, Violet and Fred organise a picnic for the parish, and Tom and Barbara return home.
- 9.00 British Academy Film Awards 2018.** Joanna Lumley hosts the ceremony live from the Royal Albert Hall. This year's nominated films include Dunkirk, The Shape of Water and Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri.
- 11.00 BBC News.**
- 11.20 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 11.30 Julius Caesar Revealed.** Mary Beard explores the life, reign and legacy of the Roman emperor, revealing how his influence is still shaping language, politics and people's everyday lives. (R)
- 12.30 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Radzi Chinyanganya presents coverage of the opening events on day 10 in PyeongChang, South Korea, including snowboarding, figure skating, and curling.
- 3.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Radzi Chinyanganya presents further coverage of the opening events on day 10 in PyeongChang, South Korea, including snowboarding, figure skating, and curling.

**BBC2**

- 6.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Eilidh Barbour presents coverage of the latest events on day nine of the 23rd staging of the Games, which takes place in PyeongChang, South Korea, including skiing and curling.
- 9.00 Live Winter Olympics 2018.** Clare Balding presents further coverage on day nine in PyeongChang, South Korea, including men's ice hockey, men's curling and women's speed skating.
- 12.15 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series.
- 1.45 A Vicar's Life.** The festive season nears. Last in the series. (R)
- 2.15 The Crane Gang.** A wind turbine installation is brought to a halt by high winds. Last in the series. (R)
- 3.15 South Korea: Earth's Hidden Wilderness.** The country's wildlife, traditions and landscape. (R)
- 4.15 Lifeline.** Matt Allwright presents an appeal on behalf of Together for Short Lives.
- 4.25 Songs of Praise.** A celebration of Britain's greatest hymnwriters.
- 5.00 Back in Time for Tea.** The Ellis family experiences life and food during the post-war years. (R)
- 6.00 New York: America's Busiest City.** Behind the scenes with the team who look after Central Park and how an entirely new district is being built on top of a functioning rail depot in Manhattan. Last in the series. (R)
- 7.00 Winter Olympics – Today at the Games.** Clare Balding presents highlights of day nine's action from the 23rd staging of the Games, which takes place in PyeongChang, South Korea.
- 8.00 Dragons' Den.** The panel assess the profit-making potential of a combined toothbrush and mobile game controller, a range of Scottish gins, and a device for relieving back pain. Last in the series.
- 9.00 Life and Death Row: The Mass Execution.** New series. Documentary following eight prisoners in Arkansas awaiting execution within 10 days of each other following the state's reintroduction of the death penalty.
- 10.00 The Mash Report.** Nish Kumar and a cast of comedy correspondents present the satirical and surreal take on the week's news. (R)
- 10.30 Live at the Apollo.** Rob Beckett presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo in west London, introducing sets by Jen Brister and Darren Harriott. (R)
- 11.15 Cleverman.** Koen confronts Linda about the dark secret from their past, Nerida, Alinta and Latani are arrested by the Containment Authority and Jarli takes Charlotte to the land of the Bindawu.
- 12.05 FILM: Guess Who's Coming to Dinner (1967).** A white couple are made to confront their prejudice when their daughter reveals she is marrying a black man. Comedy drama, with Spencer Tracy.
- 1.50 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R)**
- 2.50 Sign Zone: Holby City. (R)**
- 3.50 Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 3.55 BBC News.**

**ITV**

- 6.00 CITV: Sooty 6.10** The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.35 Dino Dana 6.50** Super 4 **7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story** **7.05 Marvel's Avengers: Ultron Revolution**
- 7.30 Scrambled! Scrambled!** Two hours of children's fun.
- 7.35 Scrambled! The Tom and Jerry Show.** Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
- 7.50 Scrambled! Ben 10.** The youngster fights more colourful foes. (R)
- 8.10 Scrambled! Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** The hapless halfwit invents his own home entertainment. (R)
- 8.30 Scrambled! Spy School.** GoldFist seizes control of the Internet.
- 9.05 ITV News.**
- 9.30 Love Your Garden.** The team transforms the overgrown London garden of a paediatric nurse. (R)
- 10.00 Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine.
- 11.00 The Martin Lewis Money Show.** A special edition focusing on student loans. (R)
- 11.25 The Voice UK.** The blind auditions come to an end. (R)
- 12.55 ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
- 1.00 The Harbour.** Documentary about Tenby in Pembrokeshire. (R)
- 1.30 The Cruise: Return to the Mediterranean.** The crew prepares to hold two weddings in one day. Last in the series. (R)
- 2.00 What Would Your Kid Do?** Parents guess what their children will do in entertaining situations. (R)
- 3.00 Britain's Brightest Family.** Two families compete for a place in the quarter-finals. (R)
- 3.30 Tipping Point.** Game show, hosted by Ben Shepherd. (R)
- 4.30 ITV News and Weather.**
- 4.45 ITV News Central;** Weather.
- 5.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special.** With Jo Whiley, Jake Canuso, Georgia Taylor and Marcus Brigstocke. (R)
- 6.00 Dancing on Ice.** Phillip Schofield and Holly Willoughby preside as the seven remaining pro-celebrity couples compete for a place on next week's show, and Camila Cabello performs her new single.
- 8.00 Endeavour.** Morse suspects a connection between a disappearance and an unsolved murder, while Thursday takes on a lorry hijack which he believes is connected to a local gangster.
- 10.00 ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
- 10.15 Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (R)
- 11.15 Frustrated Britain: Caught on Camera.** Examining things that anger the public, featuring an annoying brother, a foul-mouthed granny, celebrities seeing red, and a woman angered by poor spelling. (R)
- 12.10 Car Wars UK.** The traffic cops deal with a vehicle falling from the sky. (R)
- 1.05 Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00 Take on the Twisters.** Quiz show, presented by Julia Bradbury. (R)
- 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

**Channel 4**

- 6.15 The King of Queens.** Doug and Carrie are asked to be godparents. (R)
- 6.40 The King of Queens.** Doug's big-screen TV goes missing. (R)
- 7.05 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra is upset by her sister's decision to become a nun. (R)
- 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra upsets Ray. (R)
- 8.00 Frasier.** Niles persuades Daphne's father to visit Seattle. (R)
- 8.30 Frasier.** Niles and Daphne get married. (R)
- 9.00 Frasier.** A car park attendant antagonises Frasier. (R)
- 9.30 Sunday Brunch.** With guests Chris Ramsey, Jo Hartley and Griff Rhys Jones.
- 12.30 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast.** Liv Tyler joins hosts Jamie Oliver and Jimmy Doherty. (R)
- 1.30 The Simpsons.** Bart and Lisa think they have killed Martin. (R)
- 2.00 The Simpsons.** The family helps depressed country singer Lurleen Lumpkin. (R)
- 2.25 The Simpsons.** Bart saves the life of a sickly calf. (R)
- 2.55 FILM: The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water (2015).** Premiere. Animated comedy, with the voice of Tom Kenny.
- 4.45 FILM: Rio 2 (2014).** Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Jesse Eisenberg.
- 6.35 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 Posh Pawn.** James enjoys a tipple from an unusual £75,000 fire engine bar, while memorabilia expert Lawrence is presented with an autograph collection that could be worth £20,000. (R)
- 8.00 The First Brit: Secrets of the 10,000 Year Old Man.** Documentary following scientists studying Britain's oldest human remains, as palaeontological model makers attempt to put a face to this 10,000-year-old skeleton.
- 9.00 Homeland.** New series. Carrie pits herself against the Keane administration after leaving her job in the White House and relocating to her sister Maggie's house in DC.
- 10.15 FILM: Our Kind of Traitor (2016).** Premiere. A couple are thrown into the murky world of espionage when a Russian gangster asks them to smuggle classified information. Thriller, with Ewan McGregor and Naomie Harris.
- 12.20 The Supervet.** A woman and her sons bring in their Springer spaniel for complicated surgery on its deformed hind leg. The owner of a cocker spaniel waits to hear if her dog's cancer has spread. (R)
- 1.15 The World's Most Expensive Food.** Part one of two. Suppliers who cater to London's super-rich. (R)
- 2.05 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners.** A zoo keeper and a widow get help with their untidy houses. (R)
- 3.00 Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny.** The dealers assess an erotic art deco sculpture. (R)
- 3.50 The Question Jury.** Tension increases as one contestant makes mischief. (R)
- 4.40 KOTV Boxing Weekly.** Action from recent bouts staged in California and Russia.

**Channel 5**

- 6.00 Milkshake! Little Princess 6.10** Wissper 6.20 The Mr Men Show 6.30 Milkshake! Monkey 6.35 The Secret Life of Puppies 6.40 Moxy 6.45 Simon 6.50 Simon 6.55 Peppa Pig 7.05 Paw Patrol 7.15 Thomas & Friends 7.25 Fireman Sam 7.40 Olly the Little White Van 7.50 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.15 Paw Patrol 8.35 Nella the Princess Knight 8.50 Noddy: Toyland Detective 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.20 Shimmer and Shine 9.35 Digby Dragon 9.50 Peppa Pig 9.55 Peppa Pig
- 10.00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** The brothers travel to an alternate dimension and fight a heroic rabbit samurai. (R)
- 10.35 Football on 5: The Championship.** Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games. (R)
- 11.25 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** All the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two. (R)
- 12.00 Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud.** Compilation of internet videos featuring animals.
- 12.30 FILM: Justin and the Knights of Valour (2013).** Animated adventure, with the voice of Freddie Highmore.
- 2.15 FILM: PS I Love You (2007).** Romantic drama, starring Hilary Swank and Gerard Butler.
- 4.45 FILM: Something's Gotta Give (2003).** Romantic comedy, starring Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton.
- 5.45 5 News Update.**
- 5.50 FILM: Something's Gotta Give (2003).** Concluded.
- 7.10 5 News Weekend.**
- 7.15 Greatest Celebrity Wind-Ups Ever!** Joe Pasquale revisits hilarious celebrity pranks, with first-hand accounts from the people responsible for staging the tricks, and the unfortunate stars on the receiving end. (R)
- 8.00 Dumb Daredevils: Caught in the Act.** Iain Lee narrates comical videos featuring would-be daredevils, including a blogger who will do anything his followers tell him to, including jumping off Tower Bridge.
- 9.00 When Comedy Goes Horribly Wrong.** Julian Clary narrates a compilation of mishaps from comedy shows, including a stunt fight that ended badly for Russell Howard and the end of Tony Hancock's live performing career.
- 12.00 Bette Midler: By Her Friends.** Celebrity friends and fans pay homage to the actress and singer, who has enjoyed an extraordinary Hollywood career and also starred on Broadway. (R)
- 1.00 SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.10 Cowboy Builders.** Alison Cork updates a bachelor pad in Barry, south Wales. (R)
- 4.00 The Railways That Built Britain with Chris Tarrant.** The impact of the Beeching report. (R)
- 4.45 House Doctor.** A 200-year-old cottage in the Cotswolds. (R)
- 5.10 Divine Designs.** Humorous gargoyles and sombre stained-glass windows. (R)
- 5.35 Wildlife SOS.** The work of an animal sanctuary. (R)

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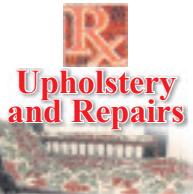


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# Simply super Suzuki Swift a top dog

By Sharon Walters

**What a delight, a car that is a world player but with a model specifically designed for British and European roads.**

Any how you can appreciate that when driving about in Suzuki's simply super Swift. In order to suit the needs of European customers, Suzuki knew that simply designing and developing the new Swift in Japan would not be sufficient. So it turned to the roads of Europe, where teams of local evaluation drivers helped to hone the new car.

Testing of the chassis, which is the centrepiece of the Swift's evolution, started in January 2016 in the United Kingdom and Germany. Covering a total of more than 6,000 miles, the teams tested as many as 90 different suspension prototypes in an effort to meet the need for optimum steering feel together with providing supple and agile suspension for British roads.

The latest model arrived on our shores last June 12 years after it first docked. An initial drive back then along winding roads in the Peak District impressed but how would it cope with my country commute to and from the office and lengthy trips on the motorway?

Simply super! Sorry to sound so twee, but it was.

This supermini made a big impact during its earlier incarnations and the latest seems to be doing even better. There is more room for people and their luggage and it is faster off the mark. At the same time it is a little more refined and more powerful while also being more economic. It is dynamic and comfortable as well, what more could you ask for?

In a little more detail looks-wise it has a more



**There's a good quality interior finish**  
impressive grille, LED daytime running lights and stronger haunches which give it more prominence on the road.

The Swift's extra space comes courtesy of a longer wheelbase which permitted the engineers to give more space in the cabin, especially for those in the back, and a bigger boot of 265 litres – a very good space for a car of this size which can easily cope with luggage for a holiday.

It's a dynamic drive with its lower and wider stance and feels very secure when tackling tight corners. It is also comfortable and enjoyed that motorway cruise much more than I expected a car of the Swift's size to do, as did I the driver.

Swift is available as a five-door model in SZ3, SZ-T and SZ5 grades. Standard equipment for all models in the range is comprehensive and the SZ3 model with 1.2-litre Dualjet engine and manual transmission will include six airbags, air conditioning, leather steering wheel, DAB radio with Bluetooth and four speakers, rear



**The Suzuki Swift starts at just under £12,000 and goes up to £16,849**

privacy glass, LED daytime running lights, 15-inch wheels, body coloured door mirrors and front electric windows.

A 90hp 1.2-litre four cylinder Dualjet engine offers CO2 emissions of 98g/km and 65.7mpg for the manual transmission model.

And the 111PS 1.0-litre three cylinder Boosterjet turbo engine offers CO2 emissions of 104g/km and 61.4mpg for manual transmission model. This Boosterjet engine might appear small but it is remarkable with that power and torque more usually found in a diesel engine than a small petrol and fuel

economy. Going through the gears is quick and easy and in top gear is very refined giving quite remarkable fuel use on that motorway marathon I undertook.

The Boosterjet is also available with Suzuki's SHVS mild hybrid system offering CO2 emissions of 97g/km and Suzuki's excellent ALLGRIP 'AUTO' 4WD system. Four-wheel drive system is a well proven and simple fully automatic and permanent four-wheel drive layout which transfers additional torque to the rear wheels when needed.

Inside, for a car so modestly priced, there is

a decent finish and quality of trim (it's certainly not too plasticy) and interior features include a centre console turned five degrees towards the driver, front seats with optimised shape and spring position with heightened side bolsters.

The facia is neat and tidy with sporty white accents and satin chrome with a basic black theme. The instrument cluster offers either colour or monochrome LCD in the centre with a coolant temperature and fuel gauge incorporated within the two main gauges. And all controls are easy to reach and operate.

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## MOTORING

# New Sport Model joins luxury Lexus RX line-up

The Lexus RX is making a stylish start to 2018 with the addition of a new Sport model to the luxury crossover range.

The combination of new, black-themed style details plus an equipment specification rich in luxury and technology features give the new RX Sport extra customer appeal, together with the proven quality, refinement and efficiency of its self-charging petrol-electric hybrid powertrain.

The RX 450h Sport is distinguished by a series of exterior elements with a matching black finish. This includes a powerful rendition of the trademark Lexus spindle grille, featuring a sequence of horizontal black fins, framed in chrome and flanked by fog lights set in new black surrounds.

The 20-inch alloy wheels have a twin-spoke design and are also finished in black.

The side profile is further punctuated by new black housings for the heated, electrically adjustable door mirrors with integrated turn indicators and auto-folding function.

The cabin has an all-black theme, including the smooth leather upholstery.

At the rear a new black and chrome diffuser treatment for the lower part of the bumper creates a strong contrast



The RX 450h Sport is distinguished by a series of exterior elements

with the bodywork colour while also expressing the RX's status as a spacious SUV with all-wheel drive capability.

It sits at the heart of the RX range as an accessible choice for customers, based on the Luxury grade.

In addition to its specific external features, the RX Sport is equipped to a high level. LED headlights with Automatic High Beam, smooth leather upholstery Lexus Premium Navigation, a 12.3-inch multimedia

display, heated and ventilated front seats with power adjustment and a memory setting for the driver's seat, steering wheel and door mirrors.

The fourth generation RX has a top five-star safety rating from Euro NCAP and all versions are fitted with the Lexus Safety System+ package of active safety and driver assistance features.

The new RX Sport is on sale now, priced £51,645 on-the-road.

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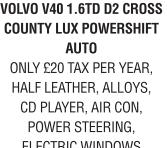
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Monty net the Spar awards at the double



MONTGOMERY Town netted a double in the Spar Mid Wales League division two with Ryan O'Sullivan (left) taking the manager of the month award and Robbie Hartshorn the player of the month honour. The duo are pictured after being presented with their awards for December from league secretary Phil Woosnam.

Having revived their fortunes in recent weeks, Monty continued the good work in the first game of February when overturning a two-goal deficit to defeat Aberystwyth University 3-2.

## Barton leads way in the goals chart

SEASONED striker Danny Barton continues to lead the way in the Montgomeryshire League division one scoring charts.

The Gainsford ace has netted 15 times to help the reserve side challenge for the league title, but is now just one goal ahead of Llanfair United's Ashley Davies who is on 14 to close the gap.

Waterloo Rovers front runner Andrew Gwilt is on 12 while Charlie Proctor (Waterloo), Mike Edwards (Llanymynech) and Jamie Evans (Four Crosses) are all on 11.

Gaz Bromley of Bishop's Castle is on 10 while seven players are on eight, including Four Crosses duo Shaheen Miah and Ben Simms and Waterloo's Tom Ellis.

Only three goals separate the top four in division two with Josh Evans of Llangedwyn on 18, while Forden's Gethin is two behind on 16.

Huw France of Llanrhedynia reserves and Michael Henderson Smith of Forden are hot on his heels with 15 apiece. Sukru Ozdemir of Abermuleyres completes the top five after netting 14 times.

Others to hit double figures are Dean Jones (Llangedwyn) on 11 and Ryan Broadbent with 10, while Kerri's Huw Roberts has nine.

In one of the few games to survive the weather, Bishop's Castle edged out Maesyrhandir 1-0 to reach the final of the Tanners Town Cup.

## Gulls handed home cup tie

GUILSFIELD, tipped as favourites for this season's Central Wales Cup, have landed a favourable home tie against Bow Street in the quarter-finals.

The in-form Huws Gray Cymru Alliance side reached the last eight with a 1-0 victory at Llandidloes Town thanks to a late goal from Chris Cathrall.

Llanfair United will also have home advantage when they take on Knighton Town, while Waterloo Rovers entertain Cymru Alliance strugglers Builth Wells.

Making up the quarter-final line up after Llandrindod Wells who host Spar second division promotion chasers Builth Wells. The ties are scheduled to be played on Saturday March 17 with a 2.30pm kick off.

# Seven-up win gives St Martins huge lift

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

**RESURGENT** St Martins moved into the top five of the West Midlands League division one after snatching a last-gasp 2-1 victory over Old Wulfrunians in a remarkable finish at Park Hall.

Having deservedly led at the interval through Shawn Melusi's strike, the Saints were pegged back just two minutes from time before grabbing the winner in the very next attack through Brendon Price.

Victory, their seventh in a row in the league, lifted the in-form Saints up to fifth spot, and they are now just two points off third place as they chase promotion.

The Saints had a golden chance after 11 minutes when Shawn Melusi raced onto a ball over the top, but his chipped effort over the keeper flew just wide. Keeper George Austin then came to the hosts' rescue at the other end with a superb save from an awkward volley.

But the Saints were ahead on 25 minutes when a cross from Calum Bennett bounced about in the box before Melusi fired the loose ball into the bottom corner.

They had a chance to have been further ahead two minutes before the break when Calum Graybrook's free kick into the box bounced about before Dave Easthope's shot was blocked by the keeper's foot.

### Superb save

Dan Stevens' men looked solid in the second half as Old Wulfs battled to get back on terms, while Easthope almost doubled the lead when his shot was Melusi had unlocked the door.

But it looked like they would have to settle for a point when the visitors levelled two minutes from time with a close range effort after Austin had pulled off a superb save from the initial effort.

Undaunted, the Saints were immediately back on the attack and Price continued his fine run of form by finding the net and clinching another valuable three points to spark celebrations at the end of the game.

The home side were reduced to 10 men after picking up a straight red card midway through the half before the win was wrapped up 12 minutes form time as Tom Ash steered his shot in the bottom corner from the edge of the box.

**GOBOWEN CELTIC** are also on the up in the Sportsjam Regional League premier division after climbing to fifth with a 3-1 win at Shifnal United 97.

After struggling to get into their stride early on, they found themselves trailing before hitting back in the last half hour with a brace from Joe Pierpoint and one from Chris Bishop. Jordan Gerrard saw red to taint the victory.

## Forden march on to cup semis



Forden's Ryan Jenkin for a corner to be swung in against Newcastle. ■ Picture: Stuart Townsend.

**MONTGOMERYSHIRE** League second division promotion chasers Forden United booked their semi-final ticket in the Emrys Morgan Cup with a gutsy 3-1 win at Newcastle thanks to goals from Kieren Evans, Darryl Jones and Mike Henderson-Smith.

Four Crosses, challenging in the first division, are also through to the last four after securing a 2-1 extra-time passage at Tregaron Turfs with Ben Simms netting both goals.

■ Knighton Town are through to Easter Sunday's Aspidistra Radnorshire Cup Final following a 3-0 semi-final victory at Newbridge on Sunday.

### Penalty

Danny Ives gave The Robins an interval lead and second half goals from Connor Bird (penalty) and Mark Jones sealed their passage.

In Easter Sunday's final, Knighton will meet Builth Wells

or Radnor Valley whose semi-final was postponed on Sunday and will now be played on Sunday February 25.

■ Radnor Valley's Paul Morgan has been named the Spar Mid Wales League Manager of the Month for January. In a month of few league games due to Central Wales Cup ties and the weather, Radnor recorded league wins against Llanrhedynia at home and Machynlleth in a game played on Aberystwyth Town's 3G pitch.

## Edwards at double as TNS close on title

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

AERON Edwards struck at the double as The New Saints strengthened their hold on the JD Welsh Premier title race with a 3-0 victory over one of their chief rivals Bangor City.

Despite having defeated TNS earlier this season, Bangor last won at Park Hall over six years ago - and again returned empty handed as Edwards netted twice early in the second half before Ryan Brobbel curled in a third in injury time.

Victory kept the leaders 12 points clear at the top - and 15 points ahead of Bangor - and in sight of a seventh consecutive league crown with just eight games remaining.

Boss Scott Ruscoe was delighted with his side's performance, particularly after dropping two points the week before in the 2-2 draw against Cefn Druids.

"It's always good to beat Bangor, so to win 3-0 is very pleasing," he said.

"We're now 15 points clear of them which gives us a bit of wriggle room."

"The first half was end to end, but in the second half we turned the screw, scored some good goals and created lots of chances. We perhaps could have won by one or two more in the end."

"It was also good getting back to keeping clean sheets. We know that if we don't concede at home, then predominantly we'll win the game."

Goalscorer Aeron Edwards admitted victory was a big step in TNS' pursuit of another title.

"After a tight first half, it was important to get the first goal which put us on the way, and hopefully we can now get the title wrapped up in the next few games," he said.

But the Saints had the last word two minutes into injury time when the impressive Brobbel curled a sublime finish past Hall to wrap up the victory which saw City slip to fourth in the table.

Connah's Quay Nomads moved back into second spot, 12 points behind TNS, with a 2-0 win at Cardiff Met University courtesy of goals in each half from Michael Bakare and Jay Owen.

**NEWTOWN** paid the price for sloppy first half defending as hopes of making the end of season play-offs suffered a setback with a 3-2 loss at lowly Carmarthen Town.

The Old Gold made the most of their chances to bag three soft goals at the end of a turbulent week, two from Liam Thomas either side of a fine strike from Aiden O'Kelly.

The Robins battled to claw their way back in the second half when Nick Rushton prodded home on 68 minutes, before Kieran Mills-Evans headed his second in as many games late on.

But it was too little too late as the Robins tasted defeat for the second time in seven outings, although they remain top of the Play-Off Conference.

"We were good in terms of possession, but were not good enough defensively in the first half, and made some bad decisions and were punished," said manager Chris Hughes.

Meanwhile, Aberystwyth Town eased their baselement concerns with a 3-1 victory against Llandudno courtesy of John Owen. a penalty from Declan Walker and an injury time third from substitute Craig Hobson.

Mark Williams pulled one back for Tudno whose Sam Hart also missed a penalty in the first half.

Town given international clearance but game is off

AFTER a lengthy wait, FC Oswestry Town have finally received international clearance for new recruits Matty Woodward and Tom Rowlands.

The pair were cleared in time for last weekend's trip to Lancashire side Nelson - but were again left kicking their heels as the encounter was postponed due to a water-logged pitch.

Seasoned defender Woodward has joined the Park Hall men from Flint Town United, while Rowlands, 32, has also returned following a spell with Rhyl.

The latest call-off leaves Town with 15 games still to play in the Hallmark North West Counties League division on, as well as being involved in two cup competitions.

Their next league action is the rearranged encounter away to Cumbrians Holker Old Boys a week on Saturday.

A few days later on Tuesday February 27, Town take on Midlands League side Haughmond in the TJ Vickers Shropshire Cup semi-final at Ellesmere Rangers' Mereside ground.

The other semi-final, Whitchurch Alport, also of the North West Counties League, against Newport Town, takes place the following night at Market Drayton.

## Ladies book up a spot in cup semis

THE New Saints Ladies booked their semi-final ticket in the Shropshire County Cup with a 2-1 passage against Shifnal Town Ladies at Phoenix Park.

Goals in each half from Chloe Wilkinson and Emily Ridge secured the victory, but the Saints made hard work of overcoming their battling hosts.

They were ahead on 11 minutes when Lia Lewis crossed for Wilkinson who smashed her shot from 25 yards past keeper Terri Henderson.

Three minutes later, Ridge's header hit the woodwork, while after the break captain Charlotte Canlett had an effort cleared off the line and Lewis struck the net.

Despite looking in charge, TNS were pegged back on 56 minutes when Jenna Boddison seized on a poor clearance from keeper Stacey Garnham before breaking into the box and firing into the net.

The Saints, however, were not to be denied and scored what proved to be the winner on 71 minutes when sub Holly Turnbull found Ridge who made no mistake from six yards.

## Rawlinson: No to a new deal

THE New Saints are fighting to keep hold of Connell Rawlinson - after the key defender turned down the club's initial contract offer.

The 26-year-old has been with the Welsh Premier League leaders for eight years but there is interest in Rawlinson's services with his current deal at Park Hall running out in the summer.

It is understood there has been interest from English League Two side Port Vale, as well as full-time clubs from the National League.

But the club are said to be in negotiations with the powerful defender, who has made more than 200 appearances for the Saints.

Boss Scott Ruscoe said: "We are currently in talks with a two or three players whose deals are up at the end of the season."

Rawlinson is a regular in Ruscoe's side - who won six consecutive top-flight titles.

Olympians end season in fine style



Team captains Jacqui Gears and Ian Lowe hold the Tudor Shield

IT WAS cheers all round as Oswestry Olympians came out on top in the final race in the North Wales Cross Country season to win the prestigious Tudor Shield.

On a cold day and in very muddy conditions, the Olympians battled hard to achieve great results, with their efforts enabling the club to take the Shield for combined results in all categories.

#### Results on the day

Men: 5<sup>th</sup> Ollie Blair; 3<sup>rd</sup> emt; 8 Pete Butler 5<sup>th</sup> sm; 18 Tom Heard 5<sup>th</sup> sm; 23 Simon Barakley 3<sup>rd</sup> 40; 24 Pete Jones 4<sup>th</sup> 40; 28 Julian Morgan-Avres 13<sup>th</sup> sm; 34 Dylan Walton 15<sup>th</sup> sm Debut XC; 38 Brian Rothera 6<sup>th</sup> 45; 43 Tim Tansley 7<sup>th</sup> 45; 59. Rich Davies, 21st sm; 66 Tim Gears 13<sup>th</sup> 40; 84 Charlie Woodcock 15<sup>th</sup> 35; 94 Jon Davies 7<sup>th</sup> 40 Debut XC; 95 Steve Roberts 6<sup>th</sup> 47; 96 Mark Blake 5<sup>th</sup> 60; 114 James Pickering 29<sup>th</sup> sm.

Ladies: 2<sup>nd</sup> All Lavender 2<sup>nd</sup> St; 7 Charlotte Jones 2<sup>nd</sup> 40; 20 Jacqui Gears 4<sup>th</sup> 40; 23 Amy Penn 7<sup>th</sup> St; 25 Sarah Newey 8<sup>th</sup> St; 29 Lou Williams 6<sup>th</sup> 35; 39. Paula Reynolds 7<sup>th</sup> 40; 44 Susie Hancock 2<sup>nd</sup> 55; 57 Jo Biffen 14<sup>th</sup> St; 60 Liz Parkes 10<sup>th</sup> 40; Kelly Clarke 13<sup>th</sup> 40. Under-17: 5<sup>th</sup> Matt Collins.

#### Overall individual awards

1<sup>st</sup> Ladies' Lavender; 3<sup>rd</sup> F35 Lou Williams; 2<sup>nd</sup> F40 Charlotte Jones; 4<sup>th</sup> Jacqui Gears; 2<sup>nd</sup> F50 Yvonne Hill; 1<sup>st</sup> F60 Sarah Greaves Overall 2<sup>nd</sup> Senior Ladies and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ladies Masters U17: 1<sup>st</sup> Matthew Collins. Senior Men: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tom Heard; M40 3<sup>rd</sup> Pete Jones; M60 2<sup>nd</sup> Steve Roberts; Overall 3<sup>rd</sup> Senior Mens Team and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mens Masters.

## Pool edged out of cup in last eight

WELSHPOOL went out of the Conwy LandRover North Wales Intermediate Plate with a thrilling 22-20 quarter-final defeat at Powys rivals Newtown.

It was nip and tuck throughout, with Pool almost salvaging an exciting encounter with a late try, but the conversion was missed. Had the kick gone over over, the visitors would have progressed to the last four by virtue of scoring more tries.

Welshpool had led 12-3 at half time, before three Newtown penalties soon after the break levelled matters.

Pool forward Ryan Goodwin - who scored one of his side's three tries - was named the Conwy LandRover man-of-the-match.

Pool, fielding a fringe side, also bowed out of the Mid Wales Cup with a 19-0 exit against Aberystwyth Athletic at a soggy Maesydre.

They trailed 7-0 at half time following a penalty try, before two touchdowns in the second period

## Ladies make battling point

OSWESTRY halted their losing run in the Cheshire Women's Hockey league division two after finishing 3-3 at basement rivals Bowdon Ladies.

Despite the draw, they remain second bottom, and eight points adrift of their Cheshire hosts who lie one place above.

WELSHPOOL Ladies are still finding the going tough in the North Wales Hockey League division one after their 5-1 defeat at second placed Dinasynni kept them at the foot of the table.

# Eagles edged out – and seek elusive win

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

OSWESTRY beat the wet weather - but not visitors Wigan as they remain without a win since the turn of the year in rugby's South Lancs and Cheshire Two.

After their Granville Park pitch was passed fit following recent rain, the Eagles were up for the battle in heavy conditions as they looked to improve on their 10th position in the table.

But, despite their efforts in this rearranged fixture, the hosts were edged out 14-10 against their mid-table rivals as their barren spell in 2018 continued.

The rain drenched and muddy conditions underfoot made life difficult for both sides, with a number of handling errors in the opening exchanges as both sides looked to gain the early ascendancy.

No Scott Smith launched some charging runs for the home side, gaining Oswestry valuable ground before finally being stopped by some strong defence.

The hosts began to pressure Wigan who were relieved to clear their lines in the testing conditions before working their way back up the pitch.

After 28 minutes of gruelling play, the deadlock was finally broken with Wigan's prop forcing his way over in the corner following a big shove from a line out, with the difficult conversion from wide out converted for a 7-0 lead.

Undaunted, Oswestry continued to press their opponents, but found it difficult to break their defensive line.

Their pressure resulted in a penalty, but Gareth Hughes' fine attempt from 35 yards went agonisingly close when striking the post.

#### Impressive

There was some impressive running by Nikola Nickolov as he tried to get through the line assisted by Hugh Adams and James Roberts, but Wigan stood firm.

Connor Blair then missed a chance to reduce the arrears when being unsuccessful with a penalty on the stroke of half time, leaving the Eagles 7-0 down at the break.

Despite the conditions, Oswestry looked to give it their all in the second period, and they were rewarded with a terrific touchdown.

A spell lasting over eight phases of good forward driving and passing finally got the ball to Nickolov who again showed his speed and skill to find a gap and hand off his marker to touch down for an unconverted try.

Oswestry continued to press Wigan in this tightly fought match, but the Greater Lancashire men would not roll over and worked their upfield to grab a second try when winning the race to a kick ahead to extend their lead, with the conversion added.

With the visitors having a player sin binned, Oswestry finally took advantage of the extra man as Blair crossed the line for a second unconverted score to reduce the deficit to 14-10.

The hosts pushed for a late winner, but Wigan, who were now back to full strength, kept their line in tact to win by four points - the same margin that separated the sides in the first game. Rory Kershaw was named Oswestry's man of the match.

The Eagles will hope to get back to winning ways in the league on Saturday when they tackle Marple at Granville Park (2.15).

## Morda merrier with wins at double

TABLE TENNIS by John Bridgwater

Leading the way in the 8-2 success against Myddle was Brian Suckley who was again in fine form in winning his three matches in straight sets.

He met some stiff resistance from Stephen Roberts before prevailing in some very close sets, the set going 17-15. Andy Hardy and Allen Roberts supported Suckley with two wins each.

One of Myddle's points came from a close five-set win over Hardy for Ian Turner, and a 12-10 final set finish for Stephen Roberts. However, it wasn't enough for a win and Morda now consolidate second against Allen Roberts.

Caerleon A put paid to basement side Llansilin Drovers 8-2 to boost hopes of avoiding potential relegation come the end of the season.

The hosts got off to a flier with Clive Jones, Chris Chennetier and Phil Langford all winning their first matches against Michelle Scott, Bill Coxhead and Pete Scott respectively.

This was followed by further success for the home side with Jones and Langford winning their matches and taking an 8-0 lead.

However, Scott took a win against Chennetier and then paired up with Coxhead to win the doubles.

Ex-Servicemen prove why they are top of division two with a dominant performance in their 8-2 victory against Kinnerley Royals.

Julian Walford produced a man-of-the-match display in winning all three of his games in straight sets.

Max Johnson, despite a strong all round performance from the home side, managed to claw two points for the Kinnerley side.

The latest returns from Shropshire golf clubs

#### CHURCH STRETTON

February Monthly Stableford Division One: M Callinan 37pts; M Hall 37; A Williams 36. Division One: T Davies 39; M Gough 38; M Foss 38.

Fourball better ball Stableford: M Wells & G Williams 55pts; N Apperley & M Nichols 52; T Davies & T Robinson 51.

January Extra Stableford: T Tyson 41pts; J Osborne 40; C Edwards 39; S Williams 38.

January Wine Stableford: N Cole 38pts; P Simmonds 33; I Sturdy 32.

New Year Stableford: P Simmonds 37pts; C Graham 37; N Cole 36.

Ladies' January 1 Stableford: A Van Der Stap 33pts; S Nichols 33; C Jones 32.

January 2 Stableford: L Taylor 30pts; S Nichols 27.

Seniors' January Wine Stableford: M Green 34pts; M Moore 32; P Freagard 31.

Seniors' February Stableford: K Morris 33pts; M Green 31; JR Beach 31.

#### HAWKSTONE PARK

Captains Drive-in Texas Scramble: Ashley Burdock, Wayne Hollinshead, Kevin Atkinson, Ray Tierman 50.5 Nett; Alan Molyneux/ Keith Salt/ Nigel Ross; Stephen Saunders, 50.5 Nett; Stewart Mackness/ James Benson/ Ian Bailey/ David Robson, 32 Nett.

February Stableford Division One: Alan Owen 40pts; Dave Robson 48; Paul Greatbatch 47. Division Two: Michael Shortman 49; Raymond Tiernan 45; Robert Smith 43.

#### LLANMYNECH

February Stableford Division One: Chris Holmes 42 pts; Tim Cook 42; Nick Clewlow 37. Division Two: Mark Charlton 39; Satyajit Maltra 39; Bill Lee 37. Division Three: Martin Owen 38; Chris Field 34; James Jones 30.

Ladies' 9 Hole Winter Stableford: Katy Andrew 18pts; Julie Gibson 18; Joan Brice 17.

#### OSWESTRY

Fourball better ball Stableford - 15 holes: Ian Bowe & Frank Morgan 53; John Lawes & Eric Glith 54; Dan Haycock & Mike Jones 54.

#### SHREWSBURY

Ladies' Fourball better ball (nine holes): Monica Scott & Gill Snodgrass 21pts; Beryl Hitchin & Elaine Adams 20'; Pat Turner & Marie O'Sullivan 20.

#### THE BROW

Winter League 9: Gary Gregory 28pts; Brian Stuttard 24; Terry Brough 24.

#### WREKIN

Seniors' Winter Stableford 8 (15 Hole): Mike Smith 35/12; Trevor Kirk 32/8; Alan Shorthose 32/16.

**Grandmaster loses just once in exhibition**

KEITH Arkell 17, The Rest 1 - that was the score when chess Grandmaster Arkell took on 18 players from across Shropshire in a simultaneous event hosted by Newport Chess Club.

The only player to beat him was Phil Zabrocki, of the Shrewsbury-based Telepost club - and it wasn't a fluke either, with Zabrocki getting a better position and gradually building up his advantage into a winning endgame.

Arkell, who has been turning out for Newport on occasion this season, is himself a renowned endgame expert, and although a number of his challengers were well aware that he is also an expert in the Caro-Kann defence (e1 e4 c6), some of them chose to take it on head on, albeit trying different variations.

There were tales of "what might have been," with Matthew Clark, for instance, building up an attack which would have probably beaten many club players, only to have it deftly beaten off and the tables turned.

Arkell had five games with the white pieces, and 13 with black.

In the league, there was a top-of-the-table clash in Division Two, and Church Stretton's victory over leaders Newport B take them within two points of the south Shropshire outfit. Wins on the top boards were decisive, with the bottom three all drawn.

Shrewsbury B are also well in the promotion fight, just one point behind Stretton after their thumping win over lowly Priorslee Lions B.

#### RESULTS

Division One - Vassar 1, Telepost A 4; T Neal 1, N Ferrington 1; C Roberts, O P Zabrocki 1; J Kuczynski 1; M Clark 0; M Hollier 1, J Bashall 1; J Storey 0, J Westhead 1.

Division Two - Priorslee B 1, Shrewsbury B 4; M Morrison 0, I Jesamini 1; G White 0, M Smith 1; T Preese 0, I Salter 1; G Viszkai 0.5, I Davies 0.5; I Jameson 0.5, A Purser 0.5.

Newport Juniors 2, Telepost B 3; C Lewis 1,

P Crean 0, S Maydew 0, S Kempshall 1; E Xu 1, K Tabrizi 0; D Holmes 0, J Westhead 1; Z Maydew 0, D Bonham 0.

Newport B 1.5, Church Stretton A 3.5; A Holdford 1, T Brotherton 1; D Griffiths 0, D Hodge 1; S Ross 0.5, S Chadwick 0.5; C Paul 0.5, G Shepherd 0.5; M Price 0.5, T Williamson 0.5.

# Sport

OSWESTRY SPORTS DESK 01743 283301

Gulls boss is wary of trip to strugglers

GUILSFIELD will be wary of the pitfalls when they head to basement strugglers Llandudno Junction on Saturday looking to keep up the pressure on the leading pack in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance.

While the in-form villagers have impressed against the top sides this term, manager Nathan Leonard admits his charges have sometimes failed to hit the heights against those clubs struggling in the lower reaches of the table.

They were held 3-3 at home by the Llandudno outfit earlier in the season, and the Gulls chief will hope to avoid such slip-ups this time around against a side rooted to the foot of the table with just three points from 18 outings.

"I wasn't there for the first game, but apparently we were good in the first half but were poor in the second," he said.

"They (Llandudno Junction) have not got many points this season, but will take heart from that result, so we need to go there with the same intensity as if we're playing the top sides."

Before their visit to Llandudno, Guilsfield took on Gresford Athletic at Park Hall on Tuesday night, and were this week hoping to finally gain international clearance for new signing Jack Harris.

Meanwhile, Guilsfield striker Asa Hamilton - who is currently suspended for four games - has bagged the Cymru Alliance player of the month award after a terrific January that included a hat-trick in the 4-2 win at Holyhead Hotspur.

Hamilton, who has netted 13 league goals this season, had the most player of the month nominations during that period.

■ While the rest of the league was sidelined by the weather, Guilsfield reserves returned to the top of the Montgomeryshire League division one with a 3-1 victory over Meifod.

Luke Francis, Dan Barton and Phil Turnbull were on the mark for the Gulls with Josh Davies responding.

**Berriew homing in for defence of cup**

HOLDERS Berriew continue the defence of the Spar Mid Wales League Cup in Saturday's second round tie at home to Builth Wells.

The young Rhiewsiders go into the encounter in good spirits after back-to-back wins, including a 7-1 hammering of Borth United last time out.

But Builth, flying high at the top of the second division, are certain to prove tougher opposition if Dave Jones' side are to progress to the quarter-finals.

Welshpool Town, setting the pace in division one, will hope to stay on the cup trail when they take on second division Brecon Northcote at Maesydre.

Title chasing Llanrhedadr face a tricky home test against Carno, while Llanfair United also have home advantage against Churchstoke. Other second round ties see Abermule welcome Bow Street, while Llanidloes Town entertain Radnor Valley.

**Athletics**  
**Olympians get the county call – P39**

**Football**  
**Seven-up Saints are on the march – P38**



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# TNS EYE SPOT IN IRN FINAL

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

**FORTUNES could hardly be more contrasting as The New Saints look to maintain their march towards the IRN-BRU Cup in Saturday's semi-final with struggling Dumbarton at Park Hall (7.35).**

After tasting defeat against St Mirren in the last four months ago, the Welsh Premier pacemakers have a golden chance of reaching the final of the Scottish competition this time around.

Recent form points to a home victory with the Saints having won 14 of their last 16 outings in all competitions, while their Dumbarton visitors have failed to win in eight games, with their barren run stretching back to early December.

The draw has been kind to the Saints who have had home advantage at Park Hall in all four rounds, and boss Scott Ruscoe will want his high flying side to make the most of their opportunity.

"You always want to improve on your last season, and hopefully we can go one better," he said. "We've had a bit of luck with having four home games, and winning two of them on penalties, so maybe it will be our year."

Dumbarton have not been on a great run, but form means nothing. It will be a break from the league for them, a one-off game, and they will come here and go for it.

## Different

"We won't take anything for granted. We know we need to be on our game - and if we are then we've got every chance."

"We enjoy this competition. It's a bit different, and it's great for the club. We have shown what we're about, not just in Wales, but wider afield, and it's going to be a big night."

Having been managed for the last three years by Stevie Aitken, the Dons make the 560-mile round trip to Park Hall on the back of a dismal run from form.

Facing a relegation battle in the Scottish Championship, they have not won since December 2, defeating St Mirren 1-0. They have lost six of their last eight outings, with the other two drawn, and have scored just one goal in that time. This season, they have netted just 15 goals in 22 Championships games to languish second bottom, while their poor run of form continued last Saturday when crashing out of the Scottish Cup with a 3-0 exit at Greenock Morton.

Ruscoe, who watched the Dons in their recent 2-0 loss to Livingston, has every right to feel confident, but not over confident, as his side look to stay on course for four trophies this season.

Last week's 3-0 win against Bangor City kept the defending champions 12 points clear at the top of the Welsh Premier - with just eight games remaining - as a seventh successive title nears.

## Eagles come unstuck in mud



Muddy hell - Nick Clay makes a break in Oswestry's narrow 14-10 defeat against Wigan, with Scott Smith in support to his left. ■ Picture: John Gibbs.

COBRA look to rekindle their promotion challenge in the Welsh League division two (north) when they welcome Powys rivals Newtown on Saturday (2.30).

The Meifod side are currently fourth in the table after suffering a 27-20 reverse at Bangor last time out - and lie seven points adrift of second placed Shotton with a game in hand.

As well as the league, COBRA have a big cup game next Thursday (February 22) when they visit Powys rivals Llanidloes in the quarter-finals of the North Wales Intermediate Cup.

Welshpool, who have been involved in cup action in the past few weeks, return to Welsh League second division duty at home to Bangor

as they look to steer clear of relegation danger.

Pool lie a point clear of Llangollen who occupy the basement zone along with rock bottom Abergel.

The Maesydre club also hope to field a second team at Flint as the action returns in earnest following the international break.

Across the border, OSWESTRY revive their fortunes in the South Lancs and Cheshire Two when they tackle Marple at Granville Park (2.15).

The Eagles are still seeking their first win in 2018 after last weekend's narrow 14-10 home loss to Wigan, with defeat leaving them in 10th spot.

## Weather has last word as matches off

IN another soggy weekend, the football programme throughout the region was again decimated by the weather with the majority of games postponed due to waterlogged pitches.

Guilsfield's already delayed first round tie with Holyhead Hotspur in the Huws Gray Cup was among the casualties with their Clos Mytton ground left saturated by the prolonged rain. It was the third call off for the ill-fated tie.

Caersws, who have played just two Cymru Alliance games in 11 weeks, were again left frustrated as their home encounter against high flying Caerfarnon Town succumbed to the elements.

The latest call-off leaves the Bluebirds facing a severe fixture backlog in the coming weeks in their battle to stave off relegation.

So far this season, 31 games in the Cymru Alliance have been called off due to the weather, still well short of the 56 that were postponed in the whole of the 2012-13 season.

There have been nine postponements in December, 12 in January and so far this month eight games have fallen foul of the deluge.

Remarkably, throughout last season just 10 games were called off to underline the unpredictability of the weather.

The Spar Mid Wales League division one suffered a virtual washout with only one game surviving, that being Montgomery's visit to Brecon Northcote.

And Monty picked up a useful 2-2 draw from that trip as they edge further away from the basement sides in the division.

Meanwhile, only a couple of games were played in the Montgomeryshire League as the weather again took its toll.

## St Martins boss is eyeing second spot

BOSS Dan Stevens believes runners-up spot in the West Midlands League division one is a realistic aim for his St Martins side.

The Saints made it seven wins in a row with a 2-1 home success against Old Wulfrunians last weekend, a victory that lifted them up to fifth spot.

Still with nine home games to play, they are just two points off third place, and seven adrift of second placed Newport Town.

"We knew we needed to put a run together, but we now need to keep it going and look to win our next four, five or six games," said Stevens.

"Finishing in the top three or four should be enough to get us into the North West Counties League next season, but a top two finish is also feasible, we're definitely good enough."

St Martins were scheduled to play Telford Juniors at Park Hall on Saturday, but that has been postponed due to TNS' clash with Dumbarton in the IRN-BRU Cup on the same day.

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